

Southern Pacific Railroad Natron Cutoff
(Southern Pacific Natron Extension)
(Southern Pacific Cascade Route)
From Black Butte, California, to Natron, Oregon
Black Butte
Siskiyou County
California

HAER No. CA-217

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~~PHOTOGRAPHS~~

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD NATRON CUTOFF
(Southern Pacific Natron Extension)
(Southern Pacific Cascade Route)

HAER No. CA-217

Location:

From Black Butte, Siskiyou County, California to Natron, Lane County, Oregon, passing through Hotlum, Siskiyou County; Andesite, Siskiyou County; Grass Lake, Siskiyou County; Erickson, Siskiyou County; Penoyar, Siskiyou County; Bray, Siskiyou County; Kegg, Siskiyou County; Mt. Hebron, Siskiyou County; Macdoel, Siskiyou County; Dorris, Siskiyou County; the California/Oregon border near Dorris, California; Worden, Klamath County; Midland, Klamath County; Klamath Falls, Klamath County; Wocus, Klamath County; Algoma, Klamath County; Modoc Point, Klamath County; Lobert Junction, Klamath County; Chiloquin, Klamath County; Calimus, Klamath County; Kirk, Klamath County; Fuego, Klamath County; Chinchalo, Klamath County; Lenz, Klamath County; Mazama, Klamath County; Yamsay, Klamath County; Chemult, Klamath County; Gilchrist Junction, Klamath County; Mowich, Klamath County; Umli, Klamath County; Crescent Lake, Klamath County; Cascade Summit, Lane County; Abernethy, Lane County; Cruzette, Lane County; Frazier, Lane County; Fields, Lane County; Wicopee, Lane County; Heather, Lane County; McCredie Springs, Lane County; Pryor, Lane County; Oakridge, Lane County; Westfir, Lane County; Lookout, Lane County; Hampton, Lane County; Cralc, Lane County; Dexter, Lane County; Minnow, Lane County; Jasper, Lane County; and Natron, Lane County.

NOTE: All UTM references are given for station locations, siding locations, principal grade crossings, or specifically indicated geological features.

UTM: 10-553600-4582540

Quad: Hotlum, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Black Butte)

UTM: 10-557390-4591850

Quad: Hotlum, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Hotlum)

UTM: 10-565845-4598310

Quad: The Whaleback, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1986
(Andesite)

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UTM: 10-567985-4609690
Quad: Grass Lake, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1986
(Grass Lake)

UTM: 10-574085-4611030
Quad: Penoyar, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Erickson)

UTM: 10-578780-4612660
Quad: Penoyar, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Penoyar)

UTM: 10-586000-4610735
Quad: Bray, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1988
(Bray)

UTM: 10-584405-4615880
Quad: Bray, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1988
(Kegg)

UTM: 10-583115-4626830
Quad: Sheep Mountain, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1985
(Mt. Hebron)

UTM: 10-582890-4630910
Quad: Macdoel, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1985
(Macdoel)

UTM: 10-589940-4646260
Quad: Dorris, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1985
(Dorris)

UTM: 10-591940-4650540
Quad: Dorris, Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1985.
(California-Oregon Border)

UTM: 10-593930-4655500
Quad: Worden, Oreg.-Calif., 7.5', Provisional Edition,
1986
(Worden)

UTM: 10-597475-4665000
Quad: Klamath Falls, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1985
(Midland)

UTM: 10-601450-4675340
Quad: Klamath Falls, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1985
(Klamath Falls)

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UTM: 10-597690-4680760
Quad: Wocus, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1985
(Wocus)

UTM: 10-596370-4688000
Quad: Wocus, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1985
(Algoma)

UTM: 10-593160-4699560
Quad: Modoc Point, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition, 1985
(Modoc Point)

UTM: 10-591865-4708200
Quad: Agency Lake, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition, 1985
(Lobert Junction)

UTM: 10-593340-4714255
Quad: Chiloquin, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1988
(Chiloquin)

UTM: 10-596880-4726000
Quad: Soloman Butte, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1988
(Calimus)

UTM: 10-596050-4733200
Quad: Soloman Butte, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1988
(Kirk)

UTM: 10-596105-4740625
Quad: Fuego, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1988
(Fuego)

UTM: 10-596605-4746450
Quad: Fuego, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1988
(Chinchalo)

UTM: 10-596540-4754330
Quad: Lenz, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1988
(Lenz)

UTM: 10-596940-4762110
Quad: Mazama, Oreg., 7.5', 1967
(Mazama)

UTM: 10-597280-4768480
Quad: Mazama, Oreg., 7.5', 1967
(Yamsay)

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UTM: 10-598250-4777460
Quad: Chemult, Oreg., 7.5', 1967
(Diamond Lake)

UTM: 10-590280-4785375
Quad: Chemult, Oreg., 7.5', 1967
(Chemult)

UTM: 10-596380-4801240
Quad: Muttonchop Butte, Oreg., 7.5', 1967
(Gilchrist Junction)

UTM: 10-594720-4802610
Quad: Muttonchop Butte, Oreg., 7.5', 1967
(Mowich)

UTM: 10-585040-4810930
Quad: Crescent Lake, Oreg., 7.5', 1967 (photorevised
1981)
(Umli)

UTM: 10-583510-4817700
Quad: Odell Lake, Oreg., 7.5', 1963 (photorevised 1981)
(Crescent Lake)

UTM: 10-577560-4825320
Quad: Willamette Pass, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1986
(Cascade Summit)

UTM: 10-572575-4828760
Quad: Willamette Pass, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1986
(Abernethy)

UTM: 10-566090-4830770
Quad: Mt. David Douglas, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1980
(Cruzatte)

UTM: 10-560640-4835365
Quad: Mt. David Douglas, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1980
(Frazier)

UTM: 10-556350-4836470
Quad: McCredie Springs, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1986
(Fields)

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UTM: 10-560180-4835120

Quad: McCredie Springs, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1986
(Wicopee)

UTM: 10-562450-4834260

Quad: Mt. David Douglas, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1980
(Heather)

UTM: 10-557365-4839750

Quad: McCredie Springs, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition
1986
(McCredie Springs)

UTM: 10-547605-4842270

Quad: Oakridge, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Pryor)

UTM: 10-543335-4843650

Quad: Oakridge, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Oakridge)

UTM: 10-541200-4845125

Quad: Westfir East, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Westfir)

UTM: 10-538500-4847190

Quad: Westfir West, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Lookout)

UTM: 10-532130-4851790

Quad: Westfir West, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Hampton)

UTM: 10-528000-4855070

Quad: Mount June, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Crale)

UTM: 10-516000-4861680

Quad: Lowell, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition 1986
(Dexter)

UTM: 10-521000-4860460

Quad: Fall Creek Lake, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition,
1986
(Minnow)

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UTM: 10-508040-4871040

Quad: Jasper, Oreg., 7.5', Provisional Edition, 1986
(Jasper)

UTM: 10-506290-4873650

Quad: Springfield, Oreg., 7.5', 1967 (photorevised 1986)
(Natron)

Date of Construction: 1905-1927.

Engineer: Southern Pacific Railroad Engineering Department.

Present Owner: Union Pacific Railroad, 1416 Dodge Street, Omaha NE
68101

Present Use: Railroad.

Significance: The Southern Pacific Railroad Natron Cutoff between Black Butte, California and Natron, Oregon was one of a series of major rebuildings and realignments of the original Central Pacific Railroad. Begun in 1905 under the direction of railroad magnate E.H. Harriman to replace the original Central Pacific route over the Siskiyou Mountains into Oregon, the Natron Cutoff had to overcome both natural and political obstacles. Stalled by government anti-trust lawsuits against Harriman, by World War I and the ensuing federal takeover of the nation's railroads, the Natron Cutoff finally overcame the rugged Cascade Mountains of Oregon to reach completion in 1927, at an ultimate cost of nearly \$40 million. For the purpose of the current project, the Natron Cutoff was found likely to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criterion A for its significance in engineering, transportation history, and the economic history of central Oregon, and in the development of the West, and under criterion B for its association with E.H. Harriman. The Natron Cutoff's period of significance is 1905 to 1945, from the beginning of construction in 1905, through the years of its role in the economic development of the central Oregon, to the conclusion of the railroad's achievements in World War II.

Report Prepared By: John W. Snyder
Co-Principal
P.S. Preservation Services
P.O. Box 191275
Sacramento CA 95819

I. DESCRIPTION

Presently owned and operated by the Union Pacific Railroad, the former Southern Pacific Railroad Natron Cutoff is a standard-gauge (four feet, eight and one-half inches between railheads) railroad extending between Black Butte, California and Natron, Oregon.

It is a single-track line with passing sidings, with shops, freight yards, locomotive servicing facilities, depots, and appurtenant structures, including bridges, tunnels, and rock sheds, along the route. A comprehensive inventory of all contributive elements is beyond the scope of this documentation, which is aimed at recording certain of the tunnels. The Natron Cutoff has changed little in the seventy years since its completion. Routine rail and tie replacements have taken place, but in general the alignment, technology, and setting of the line remain virtually unchanged. A minor realignment of a short portion of the line in Oregon due to damming of the Willamette River and inundation of the original alignment eliminated a number of sidings between Lookout and Jasper, though a short stub of the original line remains below the dam between Hills and Fall Creek. A tunnel near Westfir has been bypassed and abandoned in place due to long-term slippage of the hillside above it. Beyond the alignment and roadbed of the line, contributive elements of this property include: tunnels; rock sheds; truss, deck girder, steel trestle, timber pile trestle, and concrete bridges; "searchlight" type automatic block signals and signal bridges; depots, section houses, and other support structures; locomotive servicing facilities; water tanks; the abandoned tunnel near Westfir; and the segment of original line between Hills and Fall Creek Station.

The present owner operates the railroad as a freight railroad, but AMTRAK provides passenger service over the line, with its *Coast Starlight* linking Los Angeles, California and Seattle, Washington.

II. HISTORY

In 1880 Southern Pacific Assistant Engineer, William Hood made a preliminary survey of routes through Oregon to reach Portland. The Central Pacific was building north through California toward the Oregon border and a meeting with the Oregon & California Railroad which was building south from Portland. One of the routes studied by Hood led through Klamath Falls and central Oregon, and because of obvious gradient advantages was the route of choice to C.P. magnate, C.P. Huntington. Unfortunately, by this time the Oregon & California Railroad was already south of Roseburg, and the Central Pacific found itself locked into a route that had to climb steeply through the Siskiyou Mountains to effect a meeting with the Oregon road at Ashland. Thus the railroad through the Siskiyou became the first route to Portland from California. The railroad, however, never lost sight of the advantages offered by an alignment through central Oregon.

In 1900 Collis P. Huntington, last survivor of the Big Four, died, closing a period of penurious management of the railroad that had seen the physical plant decline under lack of maintenance or improvement. Edward Henry Harriman had assumed chairmanship of the Union Pacific by May 1898, bringing an end to years of failures and receiverships. Under Harriman control, the Union Pacific board spent approximately twenty-five million dollars to rehabilitate the railroad, acquired the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, and re-acquired the Oregon Short Line, increasing Union Pacific mileage from 2,848 to 5,391

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miles. Harriman had also early on recognized the value of the Southern Pacific and had tried continually to convince Huntington to sell him his interest. Huntington resisted until his death, at which time his interests passed to his wife and nephew, Henry. Harriman had previously ordered the Union Pacific to buy Southern Pacific stock, but he still needed the stock Huntington had left his family in order to take control of the Southern Pacific. Finally, in 1901, Edwin Hawley, who had been a close business associate of Huntington, endorsed the sale of Southern Pacific stock to the Union Pacific and vowed to sell his own. Acquiring just 38 percent of Southern Pacific stock, Harriman was thus able to gain control of the Southern Pacific, and eventually increased Union Pacific's holdings of Southern Pacific stock to forty-six percent.

Harriman succeeded Huntington as President of the Southern Pacific in September 1901. The merger had given Harriman and the Union Pacific control of 9,500 miles of railroad between New Orleans and San Francisco (the Southern Pacific Sunset Route) and between San Francisco and Ogden (the Southern Pacific Overland Route), and a virtual gridiron of lines in California and Texas. Harriman, with an eye toward increasing the profitability of his new acquisition, immediately initiated a system-wide program of improvement and modernization of the Southern Pacific and its equipment. These efforts, budgeted at between \$30 million and \$40 million, included:

- Initiating construction of the Natron Cutoff in Northern California and Southern Oregon to replace the arduous line over the Siskiyou Mountains, and including enlarging shops at Dunsmuir, California;

- Double-tracking the original Central Pacific line over the Sierra and bypassing or enlarging original tunnels to improve alignments and allow the use of larger modern locomotives and cars. Harriman contemplated electrifying the Sierra line (this never progressed beyond the planning stage), and planned the Summit Tunnel that was not to be built until 16 years after his death;

- Lengthening sidings over the Sierra, allowing the dispatching of longer trains. Half of the sidings were inside the 30 miles of snowsheds that largely enclosed the railroad between Blue Cañon and Truckee; extending the snowsheds required seven million board feet of lumber;

- Centralization and expansion of new shop and yard facilities in Roseville, California and Sparks, Nevada, largely replacing the more numerous smaller shops along the early transcontinental line, and expansion of Pacific Fruit Express icing facilities system-wide;

- Replacement of early bridges system-wide with modern, standardized designs;

- Installation of automatic block signal systems for faster, safer dispatching of trains;

- Building of the Lucin Cutoff across the Great Salt Lake in Utah to eliminate the circuitous route along the north shore of the Lake;

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Construction of the Bay Shore Cutoff, whose tunnels and double-track main line between San Francisco and San Bruno shortened both distance and operating times between San Francisco and San Jose;

Construction of the Dumbarton Cutoff across the south end of San Francisco Bay;

Extension, in a joint effort with the Santa Fe, of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad from Willits to Eureka, California;

Construction of powerhouses and electrification of suburban commuter lines in the Oakland area, with the intention of electrification of all main lines around San Francisco Bay (this latter never occurred);

Controlling, after the efforts of all others had failed, a break in the banks of the Colorado River that threatened to permanently inundate the Imperial Valley in California;

Building of a new headquarters office building, and massive company hospital, in San Francisco;

Purchasing or building modern, heavier locomotives, heavy articulated locomotives purchased specifically to conquer the grades of Donner Summit;

Construction of new steel passenger cars in the company's own Sacramento Shops;

Construction of large new depots, and remodeling and modernization of older depots, system-wide, many in California in the Mission Revival style to symbolize the state and promote tourism;

Promotion of colonization of Southern Pacific owned or served irrigated lands in Arizona, California, and Oregon;

Construction of new lines into Mexico, and extension of existing lines within Mexico;

Standardization of everything from track spikes to locomotives among the many railroads under his ownership or direct control.

In a contrast to the penny-pinching years under Huntington's control, Harriman pledged to spend whatever money necessary achieve the full potential of the Southern Pacific lines. Studying the Siskiyou route, Harriman almost immediately recognized that it posed too many difficulties to offer a reasonable chance for modernization. The central Oregon option reappeared for consideration.

Harriman learned that the Weed Lumber Company had built a logging railroad from Weed to Grass Lake, roughly following the alignment of Hood's 1880 survey toward Klamath Falls. In a quiet deal reportedly completed at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, Southern

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Pacific acquired the interests in the lumber railroad on July 29, 1905. Carefully keeping Southern Pacific involvement quiet, Harriman capitalized his new acquisition at \$5.4 million as the California Northeastern Railroad Company and appointed construction engineer, H.P. Hocy to carry construction through to Klamath Falls.

In the latter half of 1905, Oregon newspapers reported that the Southern Pacific had crews in the field surveying the Oregon Eastern Railway, a new line from Natron--south and east of Eugene--toward eastern Oregon. William Reid and a syndicate of English capitalists incorporated the Oregonian Railway, Ltd. in England in 1880 and had built a 94-mile line south from Woodburn to Natron as a narrow-gauge railroad. Southern Pacific purchased this line in 1890 and standard-gauged it; this would serve as the north end of what would ultimately come to be known as the Natron Cutoff. Somewhat presciently, the *Eugene Weekly Guard* opined that the new route would in fact be pushed south through the Cascade Mountains toward Klamath Falls and a meeting with the California Northeastern. Proof of Harriman's security, the newspaper reported that an unnamed syndicate had acquired the lumber railroad and was pushing it through to Klamath Falls.

According to the *Guard*, this new line extending from Natron to connect with the California Northeastern would become the Southern Pacific main line through Oregon, eliminating the existing main line's arduous climb through the Siskiyou Mountains into Ashland. Once completed, the paper reported, the new main line would handle all the heavy through trains between California and Portland, and the old main line would be reduced to carrying local trains. Though the new alignment might be 100 miles longer than the existing main line, its projected easier grades--a maximum of two percent as opposed to the old line's four percent--would allow for faster schedules and expedited service. A direct comparison of the two lines at the inception of the project revealed that the new line would have 12,865 degrees less curvature, 2,268 feet less vertical rise northward, 2,255 feet less vertical rise southward, and a maximum grade of 1.5 percent as opposed to 3.3 percent. The distance saved in curvature and vertical rise calculated to more than twenty-eight miles! Locomotives would be able to haul trains twice as heavy on the new line. In addition, the Natron Cutoff would open new lands to development, always a large consideration in the corporate mind of the Southern Pacific.

In mid-December James P. O'Brien, Vice President and General Manager of all the Harriman lines in Oregon (Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Oregon Short Line), confirmed the earlier reports, announcing that Harriman had appropriated \$4.2 million for the effort:

The appropriation is to build an extension of the Southern Pacific line from Natron to a point east of the Cascade range and ending just east of the Walker range. Two surveying crews are now at work on the route, the money for building the road is ready and construction work will begin as soon as the surveyors finish their part. The new line will be built as the Oregon Eastern, and it will be 152 miles long. It will probably follow the McKenzie fork of the Willamette. The question of route has not been settled and will not be decided until the work of the surveyors is done.

C.R. Rankin was the engineer in charge of the survey. In January 1906 he returned from the preliminary survey to begin the permanent survey from Natron, leading to speculation that actual construction work would begin shortly thereafter. Rankin leased a home at Jasper as his headquarters even as his survey crews were still in the field near the

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headwaters of the North Fork of the Willamette River, where they had found a seemingly good route and grades that would take the new line over the summit near Odell Lake. Rankin, however, made it clear that this was still a preliminary survey and that if a better route were found once the permanent survey had begun, then it would be selected instead. Informants on the railroad told newsmen that construction would begin that Spring, and that initial construction along the bluffs of the Willamette River would be both costly and slow.

By late January, Rankin's crews had returned to camp at Jasper, telling reporters that they would return to the field in a few days to begin the permanent survey, setting the grade stakes and handling all work preparatory for construction. Schedules called for grading and tracklaying to begin as soon as the winter rains ceased; the new railroad would be built as the Oregon Eastern. By March 1906 the permanent survey had progressed thirty miles east from Natron, at which point it entered the mountains and progress slowed accordingly. The rains stayed late that year, and it was mid-May before the grading contracts were finally let. The Southern Pacific was also trying to construct another line--the Oregon Western--from Eugene to Coos Bay, and its forces were stretched somewhat thin. With July, however, came news that the Great Northern Railway was also eyeing a route through eastern Oregon into Northern California, and Harriman marshaled all available forces to push the Natron Cutoff (as the Oregon Eastern was variously called). Harriman was determined to forestall the competition at all costs, and to that end he gave priority to the Oregon Eastern over all other Southern Pacific construction work in Oregon. By late July, Rankin had a force of sixty surveyors camped on the Hebert Ranch on the upper Willamette River, sixty miles east of Eugene; eight more arrived at Eugene on July 25 and immediately set out to join the larger party. Even this large group was, the papers reported, just a small portion of the army of engineers that Harriman had in the field, trying out every conceivable route and pass, and following up the preliminary survey by setting grade stakes for the adopted alignment.

The surveyors had selected an alignment following the Willamette River, to cross the Cascades near Crescent Lake. From there it would follow one of two routes surveyed over the summit to reach the east slopes. Once on the downslope the line was planned to branch, with one leg proceeding south to Klamath Falls and a junction with the California Northeastern, while the main line of the Oregon Eastern was to go east to meet a projected extension of the Oregon Short Line (another Harriman road) from the Snake River country [this latter leg of the Oregon Eastern was destined not to be built]. The railroad had still not let its construction contracts, but made it clear that the Oregon Eastern still had priority over the Eugene-Coos Bay line of the Oregon Western.

A month passed, and work had still not begun. However, a Harriman attorney from Portland arrived in Burns, Oregon on August 23, 1906 to formally file location maps for the Oregon Eastern's line through Central Oregon. From these maps reporters learned that the surveys were complete from Ontario to a point on Crane Creek near the east end of Malheur Lake; beyond that point the railroad still had not selected a final alignment. The only thing delaying construction, they reported, was a lack of adequate labor. At the same time, work on the California Northeastern's grade south from Klamath Falls began when forces moved a dredger into the marshes to open a thirty-foot wide channel to reach the proposed alignment. From there the dredge would build a grade across the marshes to the depot location.

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The end of August 1906 brought a formal announcement from Southern Pacific that confirmed the *Guard's* reports of some months earlier: the company owned and would extend the California Northeastern to meet the southward-building Natron Cutoff to form the new Southern Pacific main line in Oregon, bringing to an end decades of efforts to operate the Siskiyou line profitably. By this time the California Northeastern had completed forty miles of line north from Weed, with right of way secured all the way into Klamath Falls. The proposed new main line would extend 294 miles between Weed and Eugene. Southern Pacific optimistically announced its expectation to have the new line open for service in two years. The railroad also expected that completion of the Oregon Western to Coos Bay turn that port into a major shipping center, taking business from San Francisco. Both expectations were to be dashed.

In March 1907 the *Siskiyou News* reported a slowing of construction on the California Northeastern, attributed by the railroad to obstruction by land owners asking exorbitant prices, and by the land owners to a threatened rate war between the railroad and allied freight lines. Still, the railroad had a large force at work at Grass Lake with nearly five miles of line ready for tracklaying from there toward Klamath Falls, as well as a fine new depot building at Grass Lake. The railroad expected to have ten miles of line completed from Grass Lake by July, though much dredging work remained to be completed. By September the effects of the railroad's coming were making themselves known. Dorris, the site of which had been sagebrush flats two months previously, was growing by leaps and bounds, with dozens of businesses in place. The Bank of Dorris opened its doors, and boosters projected population to reach 400 by Christmas 1907. Further north, operators of the steamer *Klamath* on Klamath Lake were already making plans for direct connections with the oncoming railroad. What was boom to one site could mean bust to another, however, as the residents of Picard found when its Post Office moved to Dorris in September.

The railroad building remained big news in the area. Smoke from the steam shovel working at Mount Hebron could be seen from Dorris, and blasting every morning and noon reportedly sounded "like heavy artillery." Erickson and Petterson had a twenty-four horse grader at work twelve miles from Dorris, and a total of four hundred men and four hundred horses at work on the line. The contractors' biggest problem, however, was that of labor retention. Southern Pacific Chief Engineer, William Hood recognized the problem also, stating:

The great trouble is to get men, and then to have men stay when you get them. They seem to be a roving class. If we could get men and they would stay at the work we could complete the road in less than a year, but how much longer it will take I do not pretend to know.

By December, though, the railroad and its contractors could report that the new depot at Bray Station, west of Dorris, was completed as were the stock yards which were ready to begin shipping stock. The California Northeastern could begin paying for itself.

In February 1908 the citizens of Dorris heard that tracklaying from Bray Station had begun and was expected to reach Dorris by May. The exodus from Picard continued, as George Otto arrived in Dorris with his story; Otto's large barn was on the move from Picard to Dorris, and Marion High moved his smaller buildings from Picard to Dorris. By this time, the railroad camp in Macdoel had also been moved to Dorris. By mid-year Mount Hebron

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also had its new depot erected and ready "for the Southern Pacific regulation paint." And by year's end the citizens of Dorris voted to incorporate. Their town, grown from the sagebrush flats in less than a year because of the coming of the California Northeastern, by December 1908 had a population of six hundred, served by three general stores, a clothing store, grocery store, drug store, furniture store, confectionery and notions store, blacksmith shop, two barber shops, three hotels, a bank, lumber yard, two livery stables, billiard hall, opera house, eleven saloons, jail, doctor, two churches, and a newspaper.

Reaching Dorris on May 1, 1908, the railroad built a temporary line through Klamath Pass so that construction could continue northward while crews worked on driving Tunnel 1 (today Tunnel 17, HAER CA-) and Tunnel 2 (today Tunnel 18, HAER CA-) through the ridge. However, in April 1909 an employee of Erickson and Petterson, said to be "sore at the railroad" but more likely upset at the contractors for practices that will be discussed later, wrecked the north end of Tunnel 1 by setting off a case of powder. The resulting blast injured seven, killed a horse, and badly damaged a steam shovel some two hundred feet inside the tunnel. Fortunately, the machine broke the force of the blast and saved the lives of twenty-five workers. Fifty feet of timbering at the mouth of the tunnel was destroyed, and another 150 feet were so badly damaged as to require replacement. Concussion broke windows in nearby shops and saloons. Dorris Sheriff Hatch arrested one Frank Peterson after two of his fellow workers reported seeing him fire the charge. By July, however, things were back to normal and local papers reported that Southern Pacific had already purchased a depot site in Klamath Falls and built an expensive road to the site.

The following month the California Northeastern reached Klamath Falls. Virtually everyone in town turned out to greet the first train. Businesses and schools closed, the Klamath Military Band played, and 1,200 citizens were on hand at the depot. Rumors of a railroad for Klamath Falls (originally called Linkville) had begun as early as 1867; now it was finally a reality. The railroad's arrival set off a lumber boom of unprecedented proportions, as transportation became available to handle the vast stands of western white pine and sugar pine.

On the Oregon Eastern, however, the schedule had slipped badly. Crews of the Utah Construction Company, building south from Natron, were hard at work hauling supplies to their field crews. Freight wagons pulled by eight-horse teams hauled powder, feed, provisions, and everything else; by October 1909 it was clear to the teamsters that their work would continue through the winter. A twelve-horse team pulled a large stationary boiler up the line to supply steam to generators that would in turn power electric drills used in boring a 2,200-foot tunnel. While the company relied on horse-drawn equipment to handle supplies, they did have mechanized equipment in the form of steam shovels at work building the line. By late 1909 one was at work excavating a major cut near North Fork, while a second was at work a short distance beyond. Utah Construction also maintained its own doctor, W.L. Cheshire, at the construction scene.

The construction proved an economic boon to Natron, headquarters for the job. By October 1909 a Mr. Riley was back in town with \$3,000 worth of furniture and carpets for the new hotel he was about to open. The railroad was building a large warehouse to store supplies. Builders were busy erecting new houses and apartments for railroad employees and employees of Utah Construction. Teamsters were bringing in supplies, lumber, hay and grain, trying to beat the onset of winter weather. A steam-powered saw was at work cutting a winter supply of wood. Papers reported that "[M]iller avenue in Natron is rapidly

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building up with stores and residences. The population has increased over 300 per cent in this last two months..."

In the south, the California Northeastern closed the 22.69-mile gap from Dorris to reach Klamath Falls in May 1910. In the north the story was a bit different. Construction on the Oregon Eastern slowed appreciably during winter 1909-10, but the onset of better weather offered no respite from natural obstacles. In June 1910 a large landslide at Hull's Point, near Jasper, swept down to block the line; at three o'clock the next morning a multi-ton rock tumbled down at the same point to land squarely on one of Utah Construction's steam shovels, crushing it badly. Unfortunately, the only means open to the company to remove the rock was to blast it, which meant finishing demolition of the machine.

By this time, it was clear to the newspapers that the Natron Cutoff was but one element of a network of Southern Pacific projects begun under Harriman (who had died in 1909), most of which were being built by the same two construction firms: Utah Construction Company of Ogden, and Erickson and Petterson of San Francisco. Utah Construction had built the railroad's famed Lucin Cutoff across the north end of the Great Salt Lake in 1905, and Erickson and Petterson had built the California Northeastern to Klamath Falls. Both companies were at work on the double-tracking of the original Central Pacific over the Sierra Nevada, with the initial construction between Rocklin and Colfax, California. In addition, the San Francisco firm had the contract for the construction of the S.P.'s Alturas line down the east side of the Sierras between Fernley, Nevada and Klamath Falls, Oregon, where it would meet the Natron Cutoff.

On the south end of the project, daily freight trains were running in both directions on the California Northeastern by May 1910. On the north end, late 1910 brought a route change to the Natron Cutoff. Southern Pacific survey crews, still working ahead of the construction crews, had been in the vicinity of Odell Lake near the summit for nearly a month. There they had raised the grade of the line from ten to twelve feet above the initial survey, at the same time eliminating several difficult curves. Near the townsite of Wakefield, north of Crescent, they moved the line nearly a quarter mile west of the old survey. At the same time, Erickson and Petterson had reached and passed Klamath Falls and were moving their construction camps to a point north of that town. There they would begin construction of nine miles of railroad to terminate at the Klamath marsh. The contractors had a crew of nearly 500 men at work, and were looking to increase the number.

In November 1910 Utah Construction began removing its construction equipment from the Oregon Eastern. Carloads of equipment moved north on the Southern Pacific through Springfield, and newspapers reported that before three more months had passed there would not be a construction camp left on the whole line, except at one tunnel. All of the subcontractors were similarly poised to ship out, leaving thirty miles of new mainline stretched along the Willamette River. The reason for this change lay in the fact that Utah Construction was moving its crews southwest to Humboldt County, California, where the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads had hired them to extend the jointly-owned Northwestern Pacific railroad between Willits and Eureka. Erickson and Petterson in turn had acquired the contract to build the Oregon Eastern through the gap between the marshes north of Klamath Falls and the end of track waiting thirty miles south of Natron. The following month, however, brought startling news.

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In November 1910 the *Eugene Daily Guard* reported:

It is understood from fairly reliable authority that the contract on the remaining distance of the Natron extension between here and Klamath Falls, which was recently let to the Erickson & Peterson [sic] company, has been thrown up by them. It is understood that the S.P. company, under the circumstances, will endeavor to construct this piece of road by themselves. There will be no big contract, but the whole will be sub-let. By this they think that they can save money. It is not known why the E. & P. Co. have given this up.

Erickson and Petterson had had earlier troubles on this job. On December 22, 1908 authorities arrested Gustav Petterson at Dorris on a charge of extortion. The firm, which had some 600 men at work on the California Northeastern, was working a scheme by which they paid their work force in "time checks"--checks drawn on a Portland, Oregon bank and dated one to two months hence. Then the company would ask the men if they wanted their money "now." Almost without exception the answer was, not surprisingly, in the affirmative. Erickson & Petterson then paid the men with checks that discounted their pay by ten percent for the privilege of available funds. The men often had to further discount the check when cashing them at local banks or businesses, largely because Erickson & Petterson had the reputation of holding up payment. The firm was reportedly profiting nearly three thousand dollars each month by this means, more than their profit on the construction contract (except for tunnel work). The firm also gouged its workers on prices for goods from its commissary department (from which the workers had little choice but to buy), and charged a monthly hospital fee while providing no sick care. The charge was ultimately reduced to a misdemeanor in order to avoid having to take Petterson to the distant county seat, and in order to settle the case and avoid construction delays. Did this ultimately cause the railroad to terminate the company's contract? The record is not clear, but the cause probably lay elsewhere. For if the contractors had their troubles, the railroad's were immeasurably greater by this time, and therein likely lay the Southern Pacific's decision to try to build the line themselves.

By this time the federal government's anti-trust suit against the Harriman lines was well underway. Still, the railroad persevered in the face of adversity and continued work on the Natron Cutoff. In December 1910 Julius Kruttschnitt, head of the traffic department of the Harriman lines and headquartered in Chicago, arrived in Eugene in the company of several other Southern Pacific officials. Kruttschnitt was on one of his regular inspection trips, and the party traveled out to Natron and beyond to the end of track. Following his inspection, Kruttschnitt traveled to Portland where he gave a statement remarkable for its optimism in a period when the Harriman lines' construction projects were beset by both natural and governmental obstacles. He stated that the Natron Cutoff would be complete by June 30, 1911, with running time between San Francisco and Portland reduced to twenty-two hours.

We have completed 13 miles of track on the south end of the line above the falls and have 35 miles more ready for the rails. We also have men working at the north end and have completed six miles of the track, with 22 miles graded. This piece of road will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

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Kruttschnitt also spoke with discouragement regarding the market for railroad securities, probably a direct reference to the government's anti-trust actions. He said that until they could be made attractive again, it would be difficult to find much money for railroad development in the northwest. His optimism was not universally accepted, however. An editorial appeared in a Portland paper:

The statement credited to Traffic Mgr. Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific Company, that trains would be running over the Natron extension to San Francisco by the end of the present fiscal year, is ridiculous....because it is doubtful if the present contracts can be completed in that time. Then there are at least 70 miles, or more, through the heart of the Cascade mountains, for which the contracts have not even been let. More rapid progress will have to be made...than in the past to insure the completion...of the cut-off in two years more.

Readers of the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* learned that Southern Pacific was building the extension with a nineteen foot-wide roadbed, laid with ninety-pound rails (railroad rail is measured in pounds per yard, thus the Natron Cutoff was being laid with rail weighing ninety pounds per yard, or 1,170 pounds per each standard thirty-nine foot rail), quite heavy track for the day. For the railroad to maintain their desired light grades required the boring of three tunnels ranging from 500 to 1500 feet in length in one run of eight miles. The railroad built a number of sawmills to supply timber for tunnel linings and for bridges; indeed, one sawmill built in advance of the railroad had a contract for nearly four million feet of lumber for bridges. Concrete also had a large role in the construction, as the bridges were supported on concrete piers, and the tunnels faced and lined with the same material.

Nearly a year passed, and in October 1911 the railroad let the contract for construction of depots along the line. Those at principal points were to be two-story structures (probably Southern Pacific Standard Plan 22) combination freight and passenger depots costing \$5,100 each. W.L. Graff of San Francisco received the contract for depots at Natron, Jasper and Lowell. Train service seemed closer than before, at least as far as the line was completed. Indeed, newspapers quoted S.P. Vice-President and General Manager E.E. Calvin as stating that the Natron Cutoff would now be completed in early 1913, and that work would soon commence on the Oregon Western from Eugene to Coos Bay. Calvin, whose territorial responsibilities had just been expanded to include Oregon, was in Portland after an inspection trip of all the Oregon trackage.

The Natron-Klamath work is going forward rapidly, he reported. Recent contracts on that project will provide activity until the end of the present fiscal year. Appropriations have been provided for completion of the entire cutoff and the construction will be authorized as rapidly as progress requires. 'I expect the Natron-Klamath line to be finished in a year and a half,' said Mr. Calvin. 'It may be done soon after the beginning of 1913.'

As seeming proof of his statements, Western Union linemen were busy stringing telegraph wires from Natron to the end of track in anticipation of completion of the contracted depots. In fact, the railroad had already been running a limited train service along the north end of the line, carrying both freight and passengers. Even though the service was anything but regular, it had already proved a boon to residents of the upper Willamette country. Plans were afoot to begin regular service with a train leaving the end of track early in the morning

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to run to Eugene where it would lay over a few hours before returning to the terminus in the afternoon.

November 1911 found Utah Construction back on the job on the north end, placing steel for the big bridge over the North Fork of the Willamette River some forty miles out of Eugene. Rails had reached the west approach to the bridge. Now it seemed that although most of the work was completed, Utah Construction had in fact moved very little of its equipment away earlier, even though the company had large contracts in Idaho and California calling for the same type of machinery in use on the Natron Cutoff. The size of the project can be somewhat gauged by the fact that Utah Construction was holding over 200 mules at Natron.

The following month the railroad was hard at work building terminal facilities at Oakridge, at the south end of the Natron line. Carpenters, having finished the depots at Jasper and Lowell, arrived to build the Oakridge depot, and a 65,000 gallon water tank to serve the steam locomotives that would be stabled there. Crews had staked out two potential roundhouse sites and would begin construction as soon as the railroad determined which to use.

In the south, Southern Pacific's corporate maneuvering continued as the Oregon Eastern purchased the California Northeastern on December 18, 1911, bringing both elements of the Natron Cutoff under a short-lived single ownership.

Southern Pacific began 1912 in Oregon by increasing the capital stock of the Oregon Eastern from \$1,000,000 to \$6,000,000, and by letting another contract for construction of the next leg of the Natron Cutoff, leading to general jubilation on the part of area residents. With a 73-mile gap still existing, Utah Construction received the contract for eight more miles of line south from Hazeldell; completion of this section would leave forty miles of hard work to reach the summit of the Cascades. Papers reported inside information:

There is yet forty miles to let before reaching the summit but the *News* has inside information that the contract for remaining 40 miles will be let immediately upon completing the new survey. This will complete the road east from Natron to Odell Lake, but there is still a gap of 25 from Odell to the other end of the road building this way. This short distance, however, is only a matter of small consideration as the entire distance is practically ready for the steel."

It began to appear that Vice-President Calvin's words might prove true. Utah Construction company began the clearing of about six miles of right-of-way above Oakridge, having shipped the equipment for the work from Natron to the "front." Depot construction crews had kept their equipment on hand at Natron during the winter anticipating a resumption of work on more buildings. Southern Pacific was attempting to rush work from both ends of the gap, and their resumption of work in January was an indication of the railroad's seriousness toward completing the line. True, there had been no firm word of letting of contracts at the Klamath end, but S.P. engineers were in Klamath Falls in force, so everyone assumed that construction would resume as soon as weather there permitted.

In mid-January 1912 Southern Pacific's head engineer at Eugene, H.P. Hoey, left for Klamath Falls to look over the work of Erickson and Petterson, by then back on the job.

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Work had largely halted due to heavy snowfall that averaged four feet deep at the north end of the Klamath Falls line. Once the weather improved, Erickson and Petterson faced sixty miles of comparatively easy country, requiring little more than basic grading to build the railroad, though it would be several months before the railroad let the contract for that work.

On the Natron end of the extension, Utah Construction had already established several camps above Oakridge to push their work forward as quickly as possible. By late February 1912 they had a force of two hundred men clearing the right-of-way sufficiently to allow the company to bring up its steam shovels. This work proved difficult for several reasons. This was heavy timber country with no roads, requiring crews to build their own wagon roads in wet weather that made progress difficult. Nature struck back too at the portion of the railroad already completed. As the work train moved up the line from Oakridge late that month, a slide a mile above Pengra partially covered the tracks with earth and rocks, derailling the locomotive and two cars. A derrick and wrecking crew had to be brought from Portland to rerail the equipment and clear the line.

The end of February brought another corporate change, with the wholly S.P.-owned Central Pacific Railway purchasing the Natron Cutoff on February 29. If there had ever existed a doubt in anyone's mind regarding who was behind the overall project, that doubt had been forever laid to rest.

April 1912 brought another milestone, as D.W. Campbell, Superintendent of S.P.'s Oregon lines, arrived in Eugene in his private car. There an engine coupled on to take Campbell and several other officials up the new Natron Branch, as the north end of the extension was being called. Though he did not state the purpose of his visit, newspapers reported that he was making his final inspection of the line from Natron to Oakridge, prior to its formal acceptance, and trains would shortly be running regularly to Oakridge. The papers were correct, as S.P. initiated a new train from Coburg to Oakridge by the end of April. This gave Eugene almost a direct service to Oakridge, as well as to Jasper, Lowell and other intermediate points on the upper Willamette. Even though the new train did not run directly into Eugene, the railroad provided service to neighboring Springfield where Eugene patrons had simply to step across the platform from one train to the other. The service was a "mixed train," handling both freight and passenger cars in one train. Then, with completion of the line seemingly within the company's grasp, events overtook the project and brought a twelve-year hiatus.

Working under the provisions of the Hepburn Act of 1906, in January 1907 the Interstate Commerce Commission had begun to investigate the relations among the western railroads. On the basis of the evidence discovered, on February 1, 1908 the federal government filed a suit in equity in the United States Circuit Court, Eighth District, against the Union Pacific Railroad and its auxiliaries, as well as against the Southern Pacific Railroad, Northern Pacific Railroad, Great Northern Railway, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railway, the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company, Jacob H. Schiff, Otto Kahn, James Stillman, Henry H. Rogers, Henry C. Frick, William A. Clark and, not coincidentally, against Edward H. Harriman who had control of, interests in, or relationships with, all of the foregoing. Harriman, arguably the most significant American railroad empire builder of the early twentieth century, had set off perhaps the most major use of anti-trust legislation.

The government's basic allegation was that the individuals named conspired to effect a virtual consolidation of the Union Pacific and other transcontinental lines with the intent to unlawfully restrain transcontinental commerce. The government asked the court to find this conspiracy a violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, and to "perpetually enjoin Union Pacific, and its auxiliaries from purchasing, acquiring, receiving, holding, voting, or in any manner acting as owner of any shares of the Southern Pacific, Northern Pacific, Great Northern, Atchison, or Salt Lake line." The government contended that under independent control, ten percent of the total Union Pacific and Southern Pacific traffic would be competitive. That ten percent, they pointed out, included California traffic.

In their turn the defendants argued that Union Pacific was not a competitor for California traffic. Lawyers for the railroad asserted that it its line to Portland and boats to San Francisco gave it no control over such traffic, pointing out that this route consumed several days more time than Southern Pacific routes, and could not operate at lower rates without prompting Southern Pacific to retaliate by turning a richer eastbound business over to Union Pacific's competitor Denver and Rio Grande at Ogden. For this reason, they stated, the Southern Pacific absolutely controlled California traffic before the merger. Surely, then, "purchase of a substantial holding of Southern Pacific stock by Union Pacific amounted, therefore, to mere advancement of Southern Pacific's gateway from Ogden to Omaha, and in no wise altered competitive conditions."

Initially, it appeared that the courts would uphold the merger. In early 1911, using the United States Supreme Court's "rule of reason," the Eighth Circuit Court found that the merger of the Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific did *not* violate the Sherman anti-trust law. The court concluded that the Union Pacific could not reach California without either building a new line or acquiring the Central Pacific (which by this time was wholly owned by the Southern Pacific) which had the line extending to San Francisco from its junction with the Union Pacific at Ogden, Utah. Since, the court reasoned, the acquisition of the Central Pacific could not be achieved without the acquisition of the Southern Pacific as a whole, the merger was allowable. The court found that the merger was chiefly one of connecting rather than competing lines. Though attorneys for the federal government brought out the fact that Union Pacific and Southern Pacific both reached Portland on their own rails and asserted that the merger would serve to stifle competition to and from Portland, and to and from San Francisco, the court found for the defense that competition between the two railroads for San Francisco was "largely mythical." It found that there was no increase of rates or deterioration of service evident due to the merger, and thus could not find that the merger was an "unreasonable" restraint of trade." The railroads had won the first battle, and the industry felt that the merger of the Harriman Lines was safe from dissolution. But this was but the first battle in what was to become a virtual war.

The federal government never faltered in the wake of this decision, and continued to press its suit through the court system. By 1913, trade journals reported a different story. Bowing to government pressure and legal reverses, the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific proposed to dissolve their merger, with each retaining a part of the Central Pacific. Union Pacific's possession of its portion of the transcontinental line would reach San Francisco and as far south as Fresno. Union Pacific also proposed to retain half of San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake, which would give it a line from Salt Lake to Los Angeles. Further, Union Pacific would retain control of both the Oregon Short Line and the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company, by which it could reach throughout the Northwest, to Portland, Tacoma, Spokane, and Seattle. Southern Pacific, for its part,

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would retain a 99-year lease to that portion of Central Pacific that constituted part of its line from Portland to San Francisco [this presumably included the Central Pacific-owned Natron Cutoff]. Southern Pacific would also enjoy trackage rights over Northern Pacific's line from Portland north to Puget Sound, and its steamship lines would ply between Los Angeles, San Francisco and the north Pacific coast. Union Pacific ultimately was denied any possession of the former Central Pacific when the so-called "unmerger" took place. Even this was not enough to satisfy the government, which then began to press to force the Southern Pacific to give up the Central Pacific. Other government suits sought to force the return to the government of lands granted to the Southern Pacific in Oregon and Washington, with the claim that Southern Pacific's timber, mineral, and land sales violated the terms of the grant.

The years continued to grind by as the suits wound their way through the court system. Then, in March 1917, the U.S. District Court of Utah decided in favor of the Southern Pacific, denying the government's petition to separate the Central Pacific from the Southern Pacific. In its decision the court opined that it was highly doubtful that the Sherman Anti-Trust Act could be applied to consolidations that had been formed prior to its passage, pointing out that consolidation of the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific had begun in 1870! The court also pointed out that there was no evidence that operation of the Central Pacific as part of the Southern Pacific had had any "injurious" effect on shippers. The court concluded that although the two constituent roads had separate corporate organizations, they had been built by the same interests, had always been operated as a single system, and both would be disastrously crippled if separated. A month later, however, the United States Supreme Court upheld a decision by the U.S. District Court of Oregon, enjoining Southern Pacific from selling timber and minerals from lands granted to the Oregon and California Railroad during its construction in the 1870s. The Supreme Court further found in favor of the forfeiture of two million acres of railroad land in Oregon and Washington to the government, providing for government sale of land, timber, and minerals.

In California, the Progressives under Hiram Johnson had taken office; they took up the question of railroad regulation, and undertook the task of "kicking the SP out of politics." Though the Southern Pacific continued to have great influence in the state, the early years of the twentieth century saw it lose the political dominance it had previously enjoyed. "The Octopus" was losing its all-encompassing grip.

Reeling from the cost of the Harriman improvements and the government-ordered dissolution, Southern Pacific saw its profits cut sharply first by the opening of the Panama Canal which cut shipping time between the coasts, and then by the outbreak of World War I in 1914; however wartime traffic and industry brought increased revenues. These were offset by increased traffic to the two sumptuous fairs held in California in 1915, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, and the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego, as well as by the U.S. entry into the war in 1917. This latter, however, brought federal control of the nation's railroads under the United States Railroad Administration in late 1917 in order to coordinate the heavy wartime rail traffic.

Government control of the railroads was regionalized, with government-appointed administrators drawn from railroad management professionals in charge of each region. In the West, the Central Western Region came under the control of Southern Pacific President, William Sproule, appointed District Director of the lines west of Ogden, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque and El Paso, and south of Ashland, Oregon.

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The end of the war did not bring an immediate end of government control, however. In fact the U.S.R.A. held control of the railroads until President Wilson finally announced in February 1920 that the railroads would revert to private control on March 1, 1920. When this occurred, Southern Pacific resumed its planned improvements system-wide, including the interrupted Natron Cutoff. The 1920s saw S.P. finally complete the Harriman-generated improvements on the Natron Cutoff, over Donner Summit and in the Tehachapi Mountains in the north and south of California respectively, further modernize its equipment, build new steamships to enlarge its fleet, and deal with the deferred maintenance of the U.S.R.A. years.

After finally prevailing against the federal government's unmerger suit in 1923, Southern Pacific laid out plans for major improvement projects throughout the system. These plans included completion of the Natron Cutoff, a project requiring closure of a 110-mile gap between Kirk and Oakridge in Oregon, and realignment of the southernmost portion of the former California Northeastern between Black Butte and Grass Lake to eliminate heavy grades on the former logging railroad (S.P. authorized this latter portion of the project, which also had the benefit of reducing mileage, in 1925). On September 1, 1923, with Chief Engineer of Construction, George W. Boschke in charge, construction resumed at Kirk.

Resumption of the project was cause for celebration in Oregon. On October 12 and 13, 1923, citizens of Klamath Falls celebrated the beginning of construction on the new line. Those invited included both the general public and the principal commercial organizations on the Pacific Coast. Typical of such celebrations of the day, there was a pageant outlining the creation of Crater Lake and the development of transportation from the early days of the territory, and a parade involving many local citizens. Southern Pacific used the event to promotional value, offering special fares for attendees while also taking pains to give them the opportunity to view the countryside (the Shasta Route had already been billed as one of the great scenic rail lines), as well as to note industrial possibilities in the new territory. One of the celebrants was Southern Pacific's Assistant Construction Engineer, H.P. Hoey, who had been on the project from the beginning; he was destined not to see its completion however, dying at Oakridge less than a year later.

Almost at once it appeared that the kick-off celebration might have been premature. Not only natural obstacles faced the railroad: regulatory intervention threatened to intervene once more. Shortly after construction resumed in 1923, the Oregon Public Service Commission filed suit and petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission to force Southern Pacific to allow joint use of the Natron Cutoff by other railroads. The specter of a Great Northern Railway entrance into S.P. territory that had so concerned Harriman had returned. Southern Pacific slowed construction efforts, and at one point top company officials considered dropping the project entirely rather than share trackage rights. Negotiations with the regulators and with Great Northern and the Northern Pacific continued to drag out, until finally the I.C.C. announced its decision on May 3, 1926. The Commission threw out Oregon's petition and allowed S.P. acquisition of certain other lines, but also required joint usage by the Great Northern of the Natron Cutoff in order for the latter line to reach Klamath Falls. While all this was transpiring, construction had proceeded somewhat slowly as S.P. awaited the outcome.

From the \$4.2 million originally budgeted by Harriman in 1905, cost of closing the 110-mile gap had now ballooned to \$16 million. With another \$4 million budgeted for each of

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related projects to rehabilitate the Oakridge and Klamath Falls Branches completed during the initial construction, and to build the new line between Black Butte and Grass Lake in California, overall cost of the Natron Cutoff now stood at an estimated \$28.2 million.

Southern Pacific let the grading contracts between September 1, 1923 and April 9, 1924, distributing the work among six firms: John Hampshire would be responsible for 36 miles; the ever-familiar Utah Construction Company of Ogden for 36.7 miles; Stewart & Welch of San Francisco and Seattle for 14.6 miles, including the Summit Tunnel; Ericson Peterson & Grier Company [perhaps successor to Erickson & Petterson?] for 9.7 miles; Henry & McFee for 5.3 miles; and Kelly & Sullivan for 5.4 miles. The difficulties facing Henry & McFee were typical of those on the north end.

On the south end near Kirk, builders found themselves on a table land between the Cascade and Walker mountain ranges. In this country, they rapidly pushed forward grading work, as there was only a 317-foot rise in sixty-seven miles. To avoid climbing to the 5,130 summit, there would be a 3,648-foot tunnel at the 4,842-foot elevation. Still, not all the construction was to be light. As this portion of the line moved into the Deschutes River watershed, it required numerous cuts and fills. One sixty-five foot deep cut required 119,000 cubic yards of excavation, seventy-five percent of which was rock, in a distance of 1,000 feet, while a 4,000 foot long cut some forty-five feet deep required the removal of 219,000 cubic yards of material. At Big Marsh Creek the builders had to create a seventy foot high fill requiring 187,000 cubic yards of earth.

It was on the north end of the project that the railroad's contractors faced truly difficult conditions. The forty-three miles from the Summit to Oakridge comprised mountainous, heavy timber country, requiring almost continuous side-hill grading and extensive tunneling. Descending from the Summit Tunnel the line would follow the south side of Salt Creek Canyon for nineteen miles until reaching the crest of Cougar Ridge, where it would make a 200° turn--much of which would be inside a 2,205-foot tunnel. Backtracking along the same ridge but at a lower elevation for eight miles the line would then make another sharp curve, crossing Salt Creek on a seventy foot-high, 515 foot-long steel viaduct to resume its progress north toward Oakridge. The sidehill construction was to prove difficult. As the graders pushed forward, unstable slopes forced line revisions and required the substitution of one 2,095-foot tunnel in place of three shorter tunnels originally planned at that location. Too, the absence of roads in the area meant that the contractors would have to build their own on which to bring up equipment.

In late October 1924 John G. McFee reported that his firm would be watching the mountain weather closely. Thirty more days of good weather would give the contractors a head start on their tunnel work and would enable them to continue work throughout the coming winter. Their work was no small task: well up into the mountains on the north side of the summit, they faced drilling seventeen tunnels in a stretch of sixteen miles [a distance seemingly at odds with the reported length of line called for in their contract, though perhaps the 5.3 miles constituted aggregate tunnel length]. What McFee needed was enough good weather to allow the grading crews of Kelly and Sullivan to complete *their* work so that the tunnelers could bring up their equipment and supplies. This work had proceeded somewhat more slowly than anticipated due to dry weather and fire danger: much of the brush had to be cleared by burning, and this had to be restricted to protect the timber. McFee anticipated employing nine hundred men on tunnel work and another three hundred on outside work. He very much wanted to have his crews underground before bad

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weather set in, which would allow them to be far ahead of estimates by Spring 1925. The longest tunnel facing McFee's forces would be 2,400 feet long, with another at 2,100 feet, and the remainder ranging down to a few hundred feet each. Geologic conditions offered both hindrances and help: the rock to be tunneled was extremely hard, but this would also reduce the need for timbering the bores. McFee had six steam shovels at work already, and his crews had spent the summer building wagon roads and camps in preparation for the tunnel work. McFee expected to absorb 500-600 men employed by Kelly and Sullivan in clearing the right-of-way to carry out grading work.

By early December 1924 McFee's crews were experiencing severe weather in the Cascades, but were still rushing their work and expected to continue throughout the winter as McFee had said. By this time approximately 44 miles of railroad had been completed between Kirk and Oakridge, thirty-seven miles of which were from Kirk to Skookum, and the remaining seven miles from Oakridge to the end of the rail construction. Trains were operating on both sections of road as far as the rails had been laid. A sixty-five mile gap remained, though grading work was nearly completed from Skookum to the Summit helper station, a distance of 31 miles, and schedules called for track laying and ballasting to start on this stretch in early Spring 1925. At Summit the railroad grade reached an elevation of 4,842 feet. Beyond the then-present end of operated railroad south of Oakridge, the grade was ready for track laying to McCredie Hot Springs, a distance of about four miles. The most difficult part of the construction was between Oakridge and the Summit of the Cascades, on the west slope of the mountains. There the maximum grade was ninety-five feet per mile with curves as sharp as eight degrees. In this distance were to be twenty tunnels having an aggregate length of 18,720 feet, with the Summit Tunnel the longest at 3,648 feet, and the shortest tunnel having a length of 150 feet.

A workers' strike in late 1924 had not seriously hampered clearing the line. During the latter part of the summer and fall, the railroad had an average of 3,000 men employed in clearing right-of-way, grading, tunneling and track laying on the north end of the line. Because of excessive costs and difficulty of hauling, the contractors had established a number of small sawmills at convenient points in the forest adjacent to the groups of tunnels to provide construction timber for the tunnels.

Reports in mid-February 1925 indicated that, with three hundred men at work on the Summit Tunnel, the railroad contemplated its completion by Independence Day. Working from both ends, workers had already pushed in seven hundred feet from the south end and three hundred feet from the north end. A month later the railroad announced that they would soon have three thousand men at work along the project. District Freight and Passenger Agent, L.L. Graham stated that preparations were underway in anticipation of the cessation of winter. A crew of sixty Mexican workers had already resumed tracklaying, and horses shipped down to lower elevations the previous Fall for feeding were being shipped back up in anticipation of resuming grading work.

By mid-April 1925 crews were rushing tracklaying from Oakridge to McCredie Hot Springs, with a ballast train and one hundred men hard at work. The railroad anticipated that completion of the line to McCredie would add much to the speed of tracklaying farther by allowing materials to be hauled in by rail rather than by wagon on poor roads. Henry & McFee completed their work on the Summit Tunnel on schedule, holing through to complete this critical link in the Natron Cutoff.

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In late 1925 the railroad announced its next intended improvement for Oregon: a new line connecting with the Natron Cutoff at Klamath Falls and driving southeast through the Tule Lake territory in Northern California to connect with the Nevada-California-Oregon Railway at Alturas, California. Southern Pacific had just purchased all the N-C-O's common stock, and was awaiting Interstate Commerce Commission approval to standard-gauge the narrow-gauge line and extend it to a meeting with the Central Pacific main line at Fernley, Nevada. This, in concert with the Natron Cutoff, would serve as a much shorter route between Ogden and Portland.

In the meantime, construction on the Natron Cutoff continued until, on June 15, 1926, the rails were joined at surveyors point G-855+50 between Cruzatte and Frazier. Quietly and without fanfare officials drove the obligatory gold spike on August 7 to officially mark completion. Fanfare, however, was to follow. In August the railroad announced a pageant to celebrate completion of the Natron Cutoff. Anticipating opening the line to local train service in September and to through train service by the end of the year, Southern Pacific planned a celebration at Eugene that would include a parade and play. To ensure promotion of the new line, the company extended invitations to chambers of commerce and other civic and industrial organizations of Oregon, Washington and California. Special delegations from Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento and Klamath Falls attended the "Trail to Rail" fete on August 19-20, 1926, which drew nearly 50,000 celebrants.

Construction then continued on the Black Butte to Grass Lake Cutoff to eliminate that troublesome portion of the former California Northeastern. Establishing ten construction camps, Utah Construction had thrown eight hundred men and twenty-six steam shovels into the task, beginning construction on October 20, 1925. Completion of the Black Butte to Grass Lake Cutoff on April 17, 1927 and the opening of the line to through train service the same day represented the final element of the what then became known as the Cascade Line of the Shasta Division, nearly two decades after the originally-projected 1908 completion date. The new line brought San Francisco and Portland three and one-half hours closer, and running times between Los Angeles and Portland were reduced by seven hours. Final cost of the project came to \$36,565,000.

Most railroads, Southern Pacific included, had not fully recovered by the time they entered the Great Depression. Still, the lessons of World War I and the lean years of the Great Depression which saw the railroads making do with less prepared them for exemplary service in World War II. While remaining in private control, the railroads became virtual arms of the military, hauling 90% of the military's freight and 97% of the troop movements. The Southern Pacific's Natron Cutoff carried materiel and troops destined for the Pacific Theater, and supplies for the shipyards of the Pacific Northwest. In contrast to the financial losses of World War I under government control, the railroads' World War II efforts garnered nearly three million dollars a day in income tax revenues for the federal government.

In 1944, *Railroads at War* told of the historic contributions of the railroads, from initially uniting the nation with construction of the transcontinental railroads to the then-present movement of freight and troops in wartime:

America's railroads made the union of the states a physical fact, a practical reality. Today they are the great inner lifelines of that union's survival in the

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holocaust of world war: an indispensable base behind the tremendous charges under which the tyrant attackers across both oceans are now crumbling.

Farseeing Americans in the early days of the republic, looking from the westward side of the Alleghenies only as far as the Mississippi, thought it might take five or ten centuries to settle those vast stretches. Railroads brought population and statehood all the way to the Pacific in a matter of decades.

World War II loaded our railways with a job whose hugeness and complexity almost baffles imagination. Failure could have been fatal. They have succeeded magnificently.

Even allowing for wartime rhetoric, the railroads accomplished remarkable feats. The Southern Pacific alone eliminated 27 pre-war passenger trains and rapidly converted to handle military needs, building new bridges, lengthening passing sidings, and laying hundreds of miles of heavier rail, all to increase its capacity to serve the growing volume and weight of military traffic. With the induction of much of the younger labor force into military service, Southern Pacific soon faced a severe labor shortage as nearly 20,000 employees left for military service just as the railroad's workload burgeoned. The railroad lowered minimum and raised maximum ages for its workers, lengthened working days, canceled vacations, imported workers from Mexico, and hired women for jobs previously restricted to men, all to compensate for the shortage.

As mentioned previously the Natron Cutoff proved crucial to the railroad's war effort, and carried an enormous amount of traffic that would have astounded its original builders, and that would have simply overwhelmed the old Siskiyou line that it had replaced. The Southern Pacific found itself handling trains for the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Coast Guard, as well as hospital trains with war wounded. In addition to moving troops and war supplies, the Southern Pacific also moved 125 "alien specials," transporting trainloads of Japanese Americans to internment camps in the interior, where they were incarcerated. Nevertheless, Southern Pacific's substantial accomplishments in World War II service far overshadowed its use in this unforgettable demonstration of war hysteria and racism. At the end of the war, the railroad received commendations for what was termed its "finest hour."

The Southern Pacific's Natron Cutoff, the main line through Oregon since its completion in 1927, remained a critical element the railroad's overall system. Changes over the years have been minor, consisting largely of heavier steel rails to handle more massive rolling stock and tonnages. At any point along its length, the Natron Cutoff continues to impart a sense of time and place linked inextricably to its period of significance.

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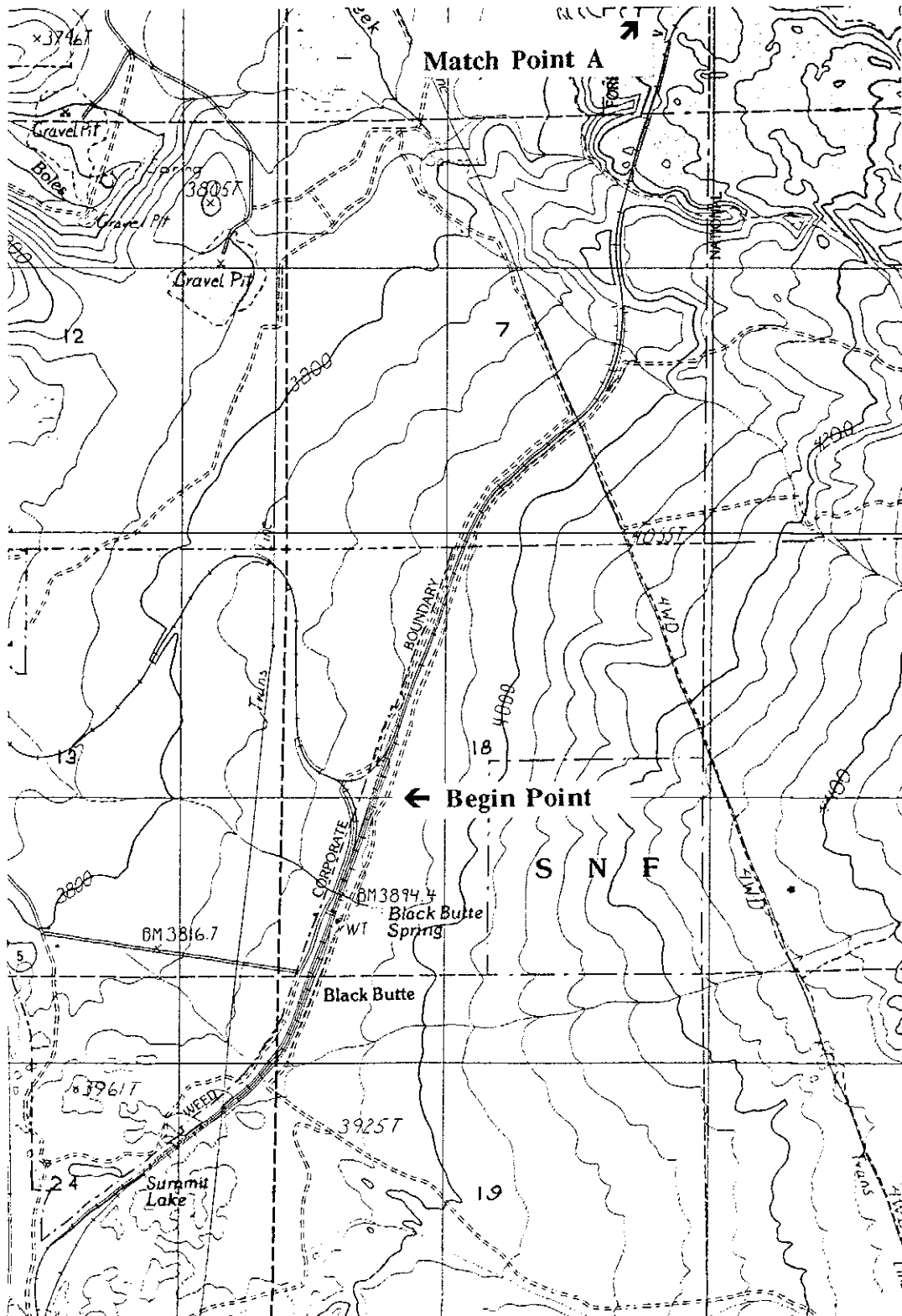
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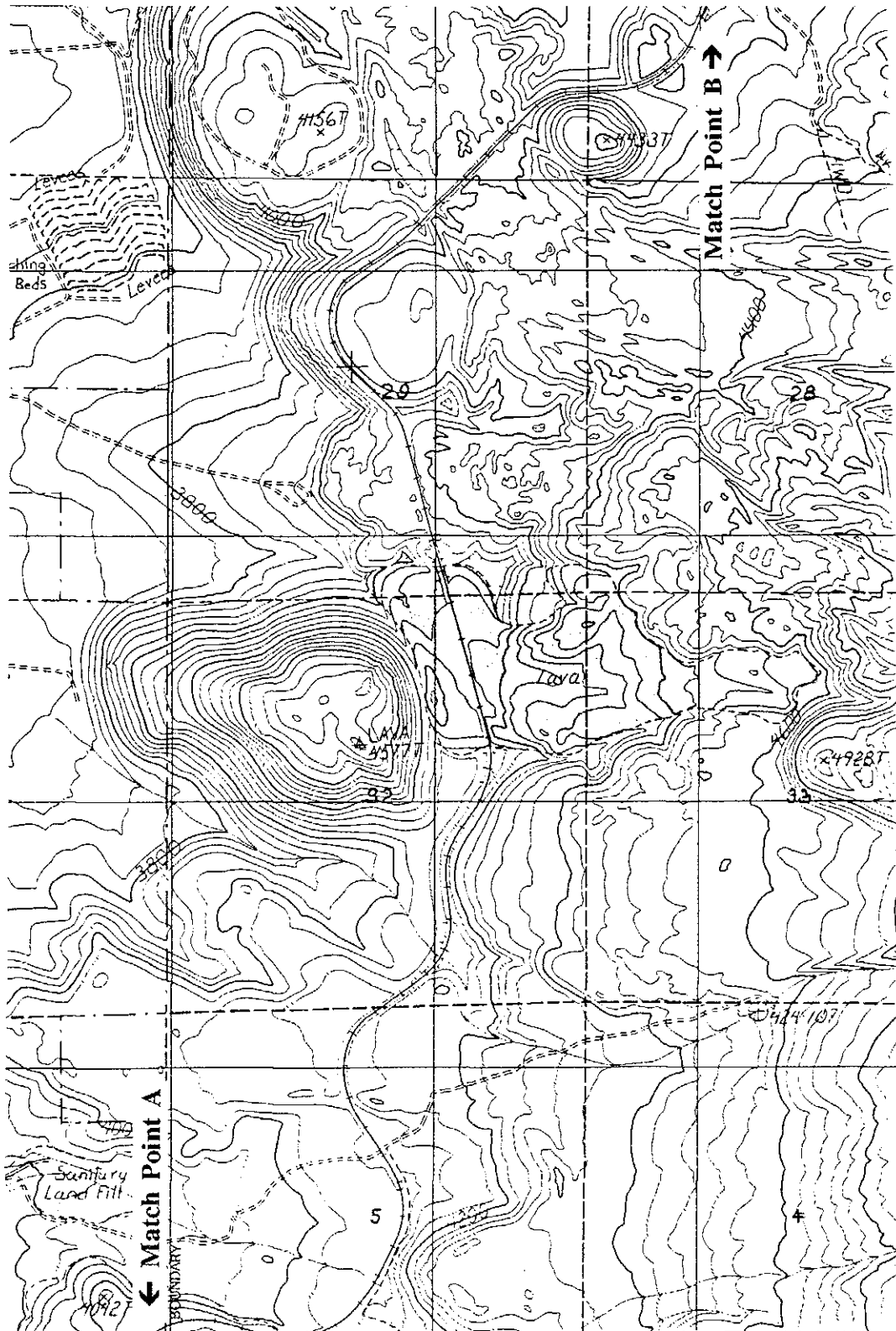
IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

As a result of the 1996 merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads, a federal undertaking under the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and in order to accommodate freight trains utilizing longer and taller cars and loads--tri-level auto rack cars and cars carrying double-stacked containers--the Union Pacific will need to increase tunnel clearances on the former Southern Pacific Natron Cutoff. The tunnels, built between 1905 and 1927, are contributing elements of the National Register-eligible Southern Pacific Cascade Route Tunnels Historic District. The railroad has laser-measured all tunnels and will determine clearance needs on a tunnel-by-tunnel basis. Some, because of curved alignment, will require interior work to allow for longer cars such as tri-level auto rack cars; others will require both interior and portal work to provide sufficient vertical clearance for "double-stack" container cars. The latter work may impact the character-defining tunnel portals if crown mining of the tunnels (as opposed to lowering the tunnel floors) is selected. Inasmuch as this would cause an adverse effect to the tunnels, Union Pacific, in consultation with the California and Oregon SHPOs, has elected to record the tunnels for the Historic American Engineering Record. A field review with Oregon SHPO staff resulted in the guidance to document representative examples of tunnels from the early and late periods of construction in that state; documentation of both tunnels to be modified in California is consistent with documentation previously carried out on the Southern Pacific Donner Pass Route Tunnels Historic District (HAER CA-196). Documentation was carried out by P.S. Preservation Services, John Snyder Field Director and Historian, and Ed Andersen, Photographer. Photos were made in November 1997, and research was carried in June 1997, and from November 1997 through April 1998.

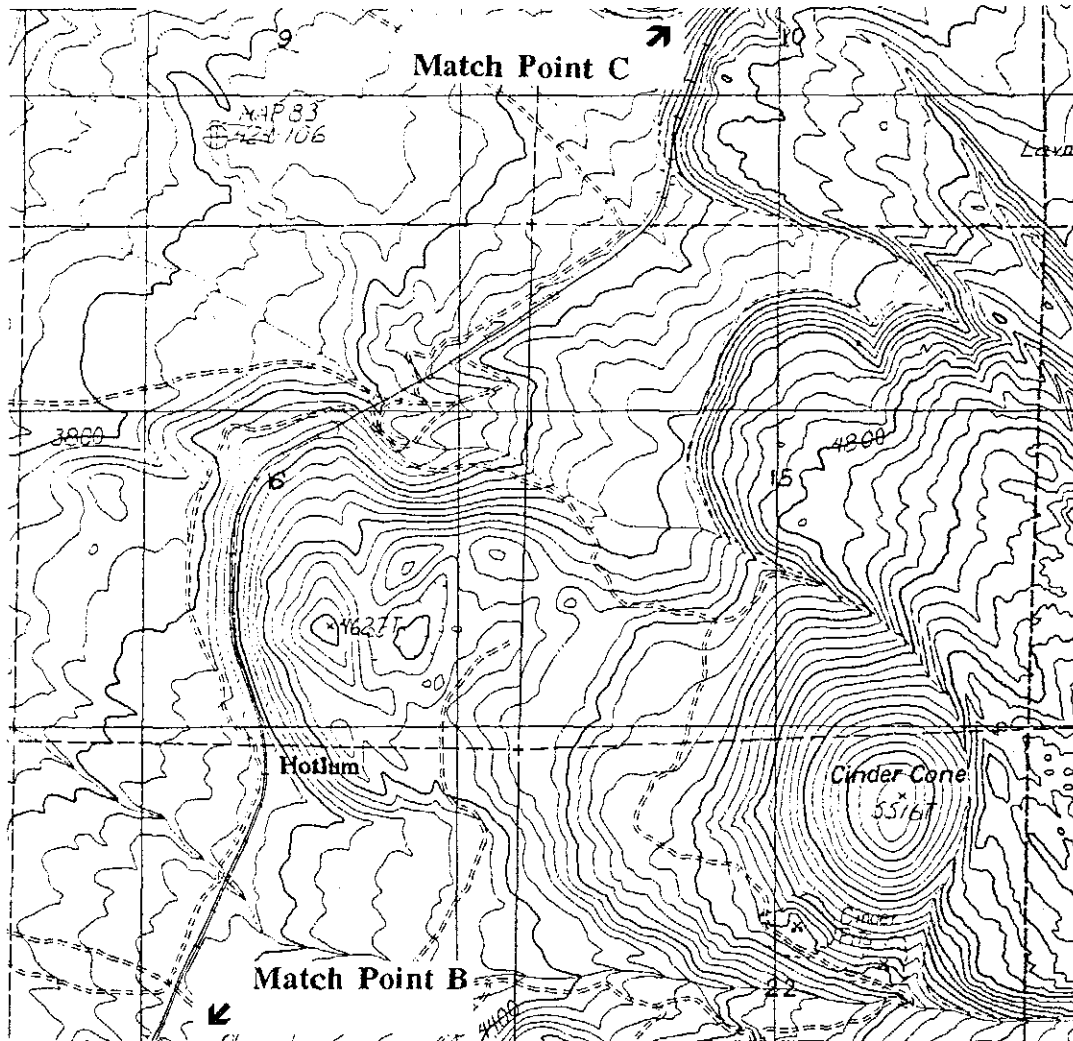
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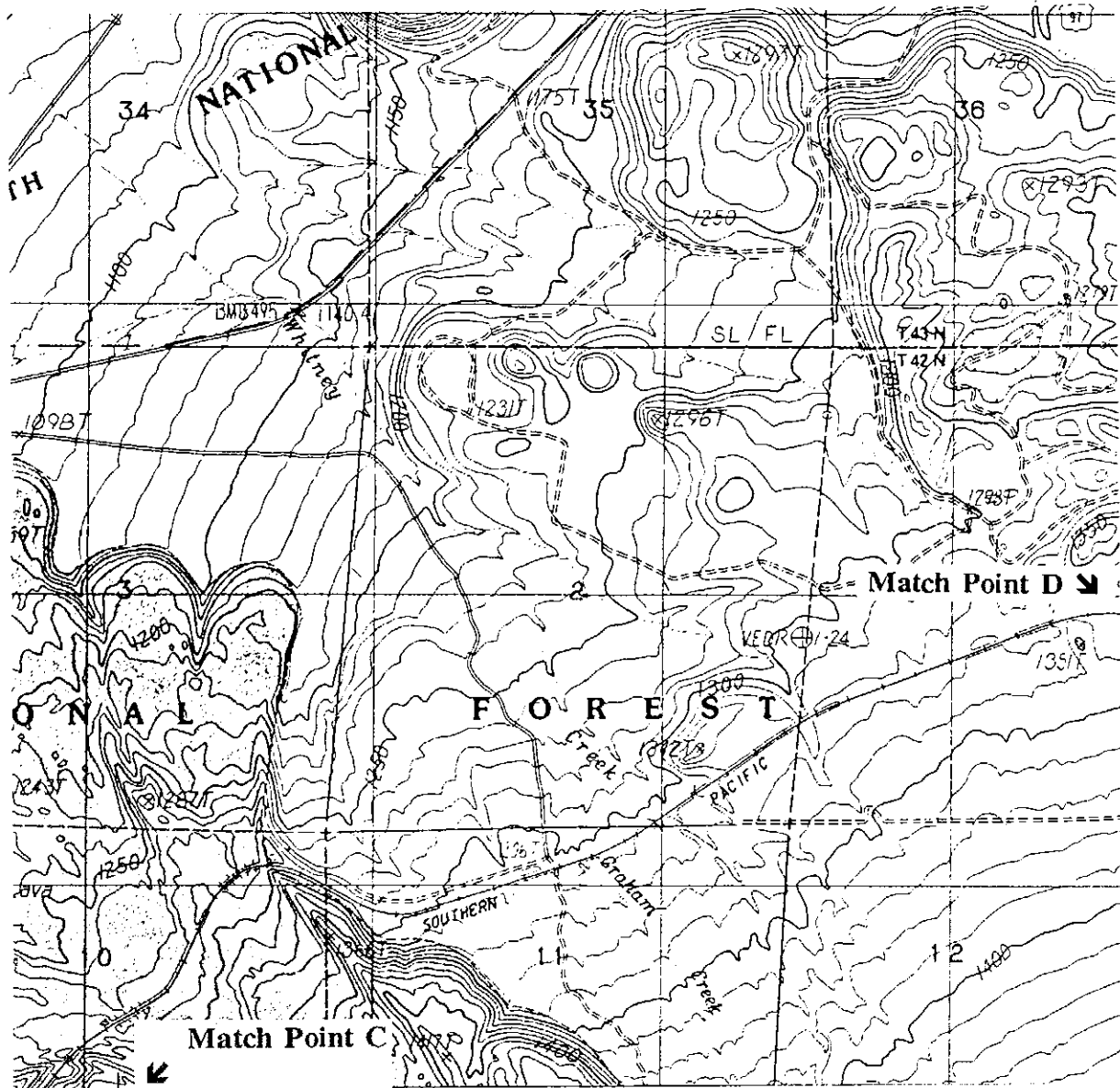
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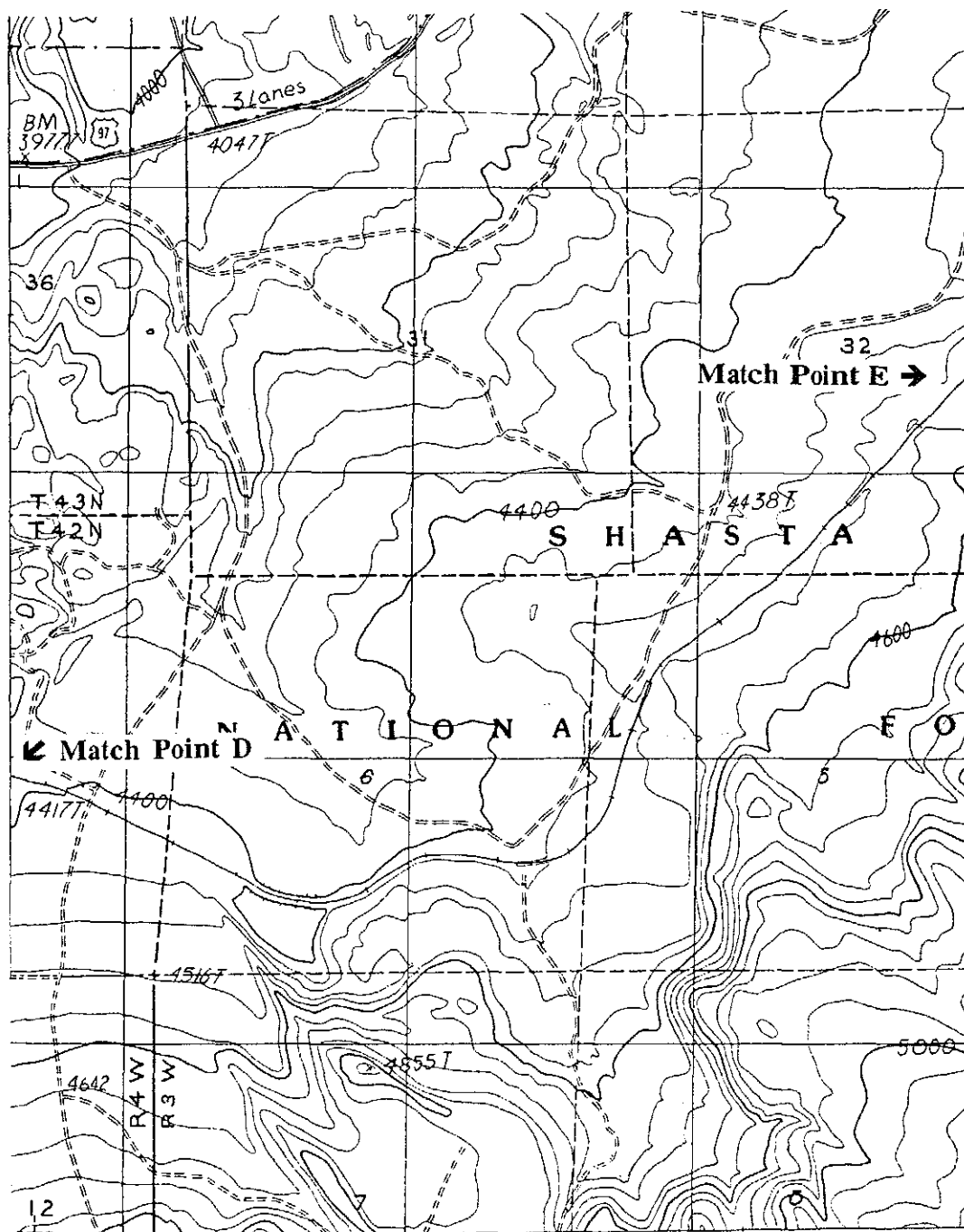
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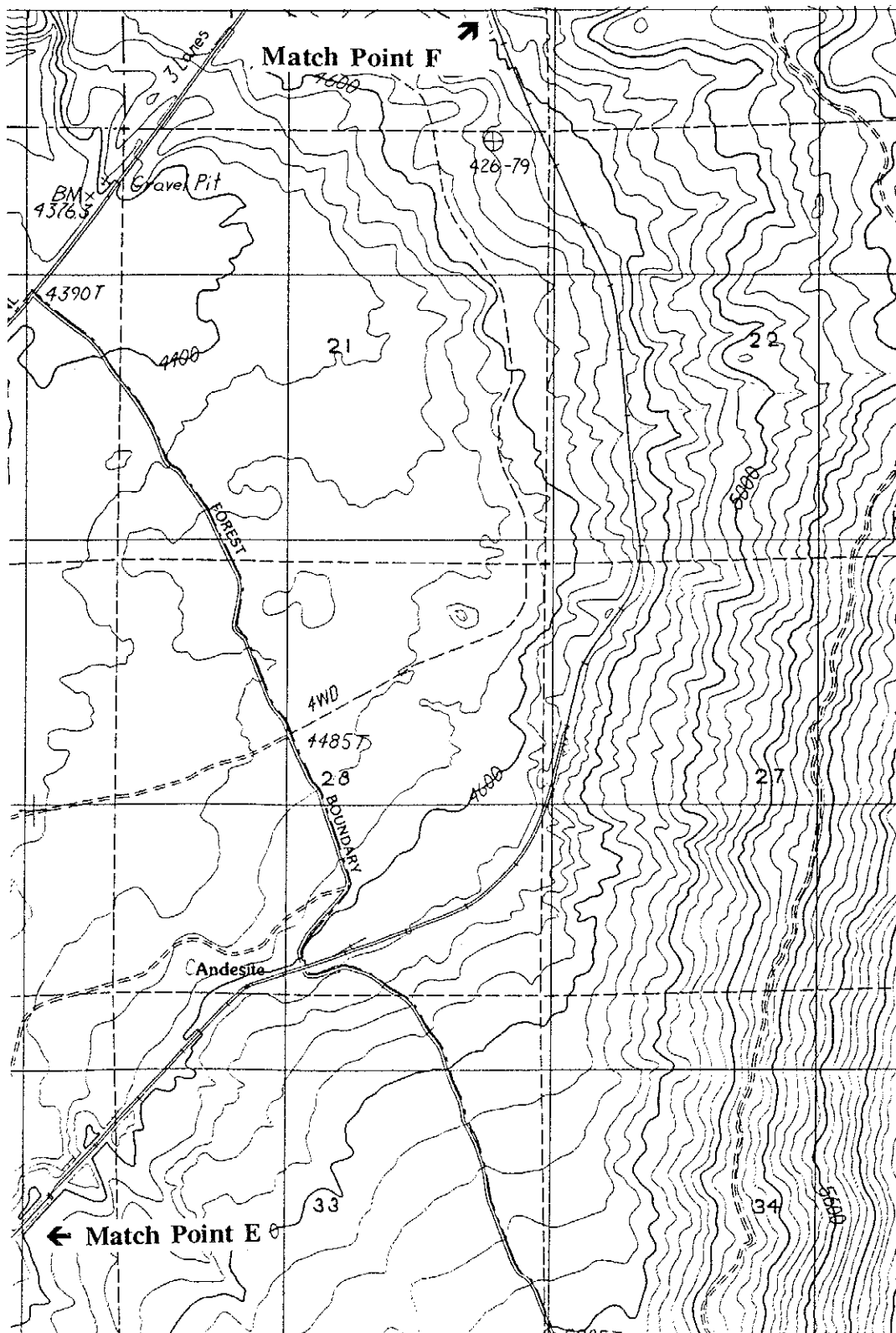
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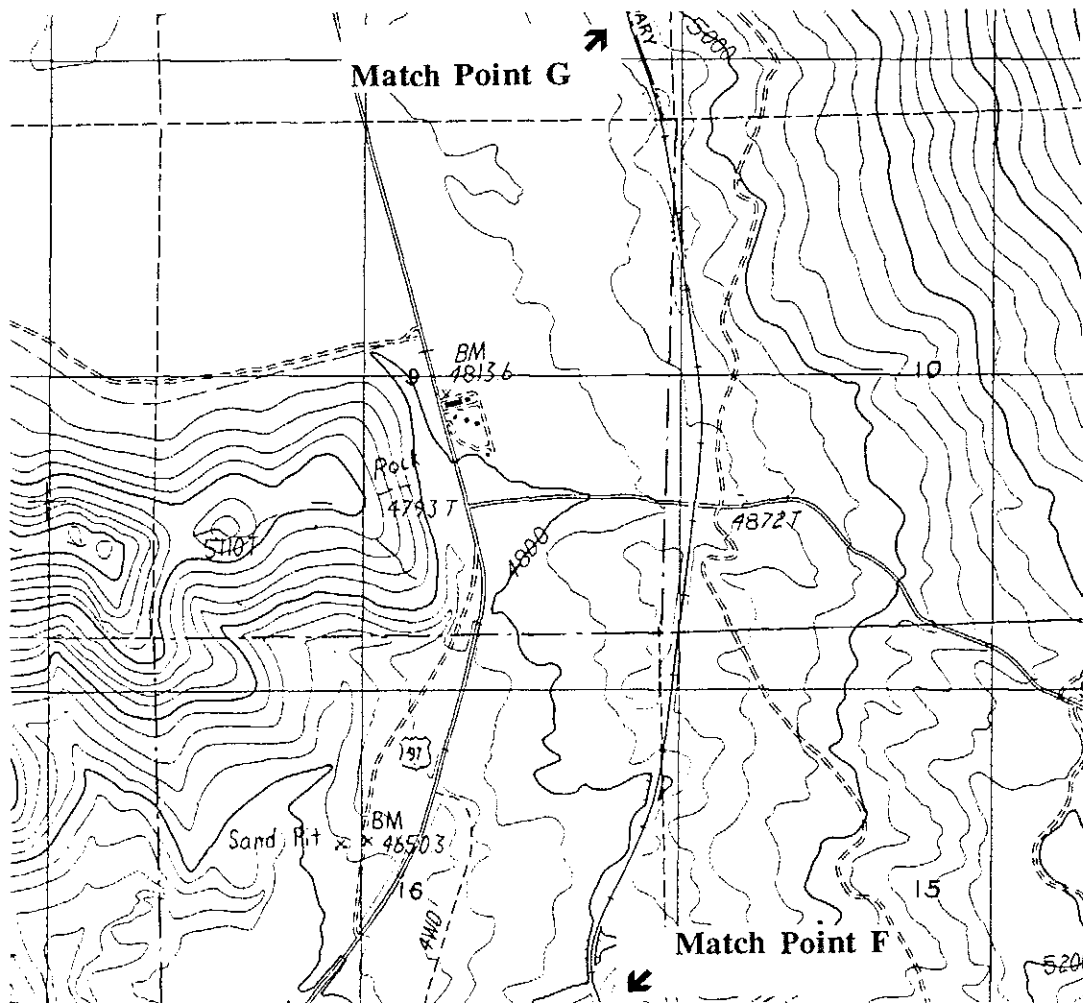
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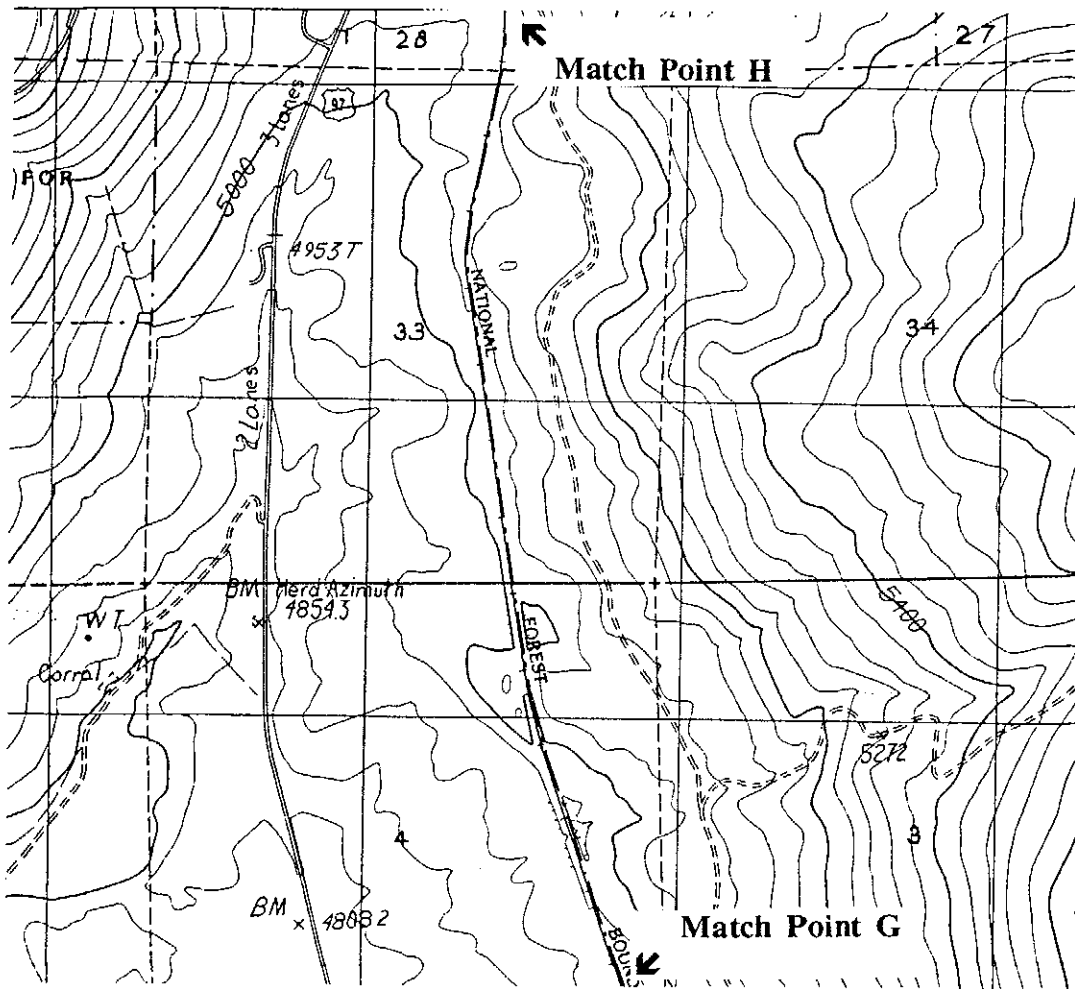
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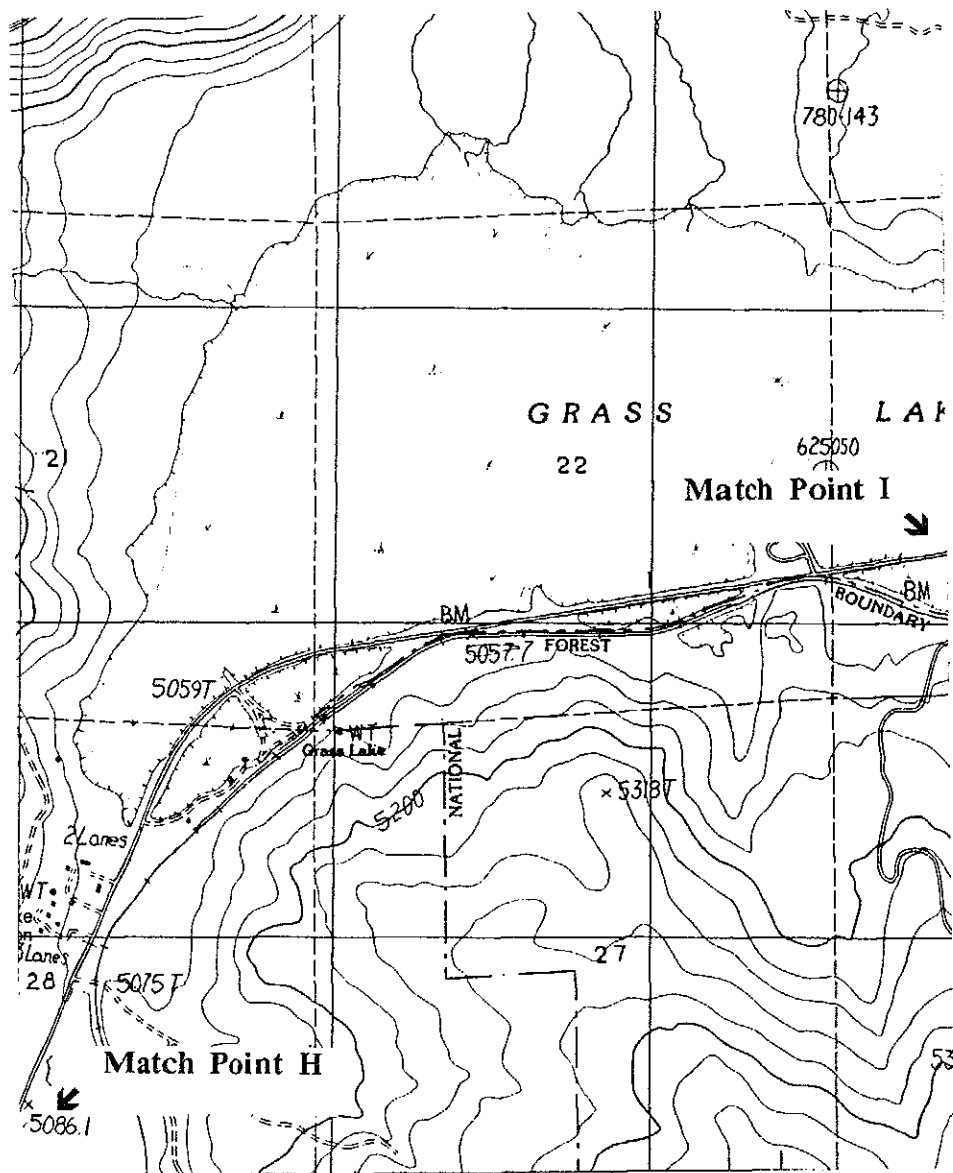
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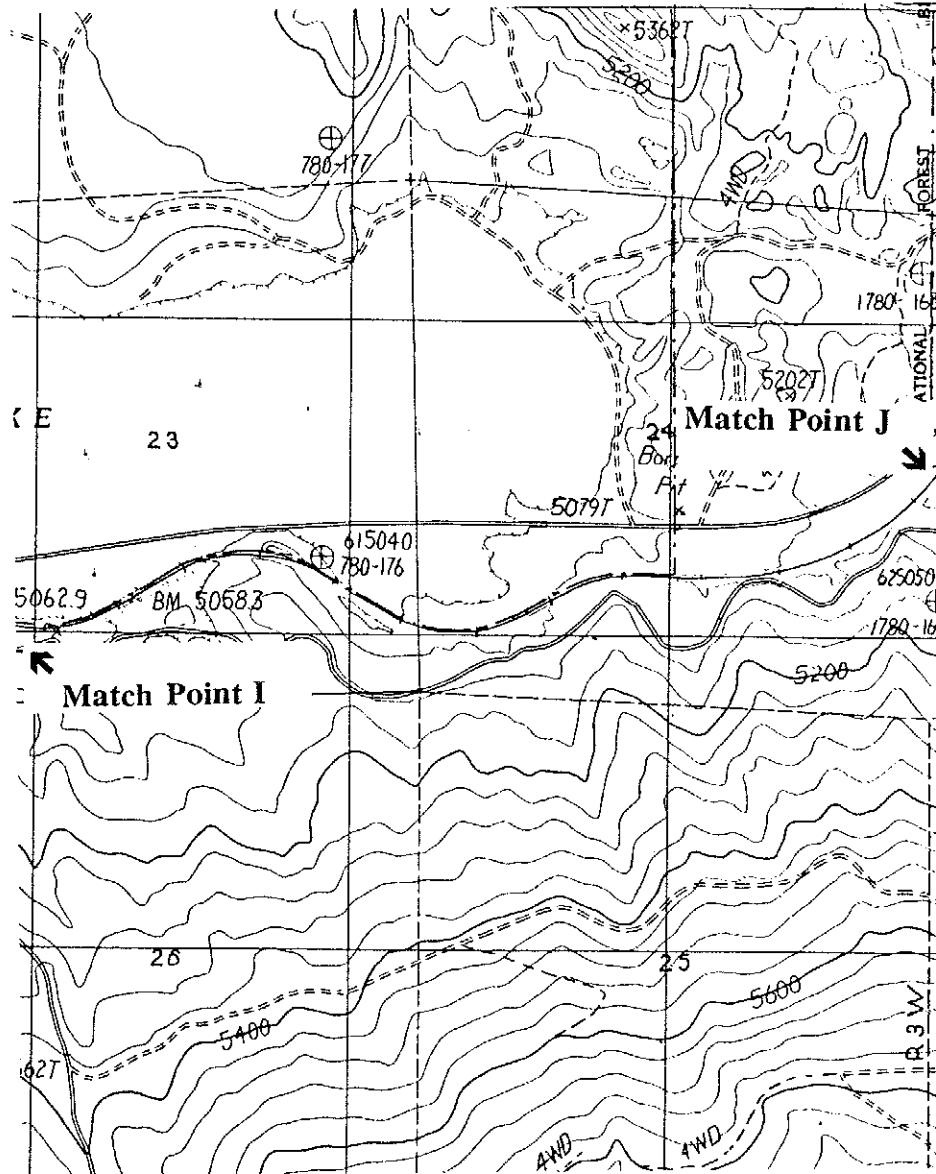
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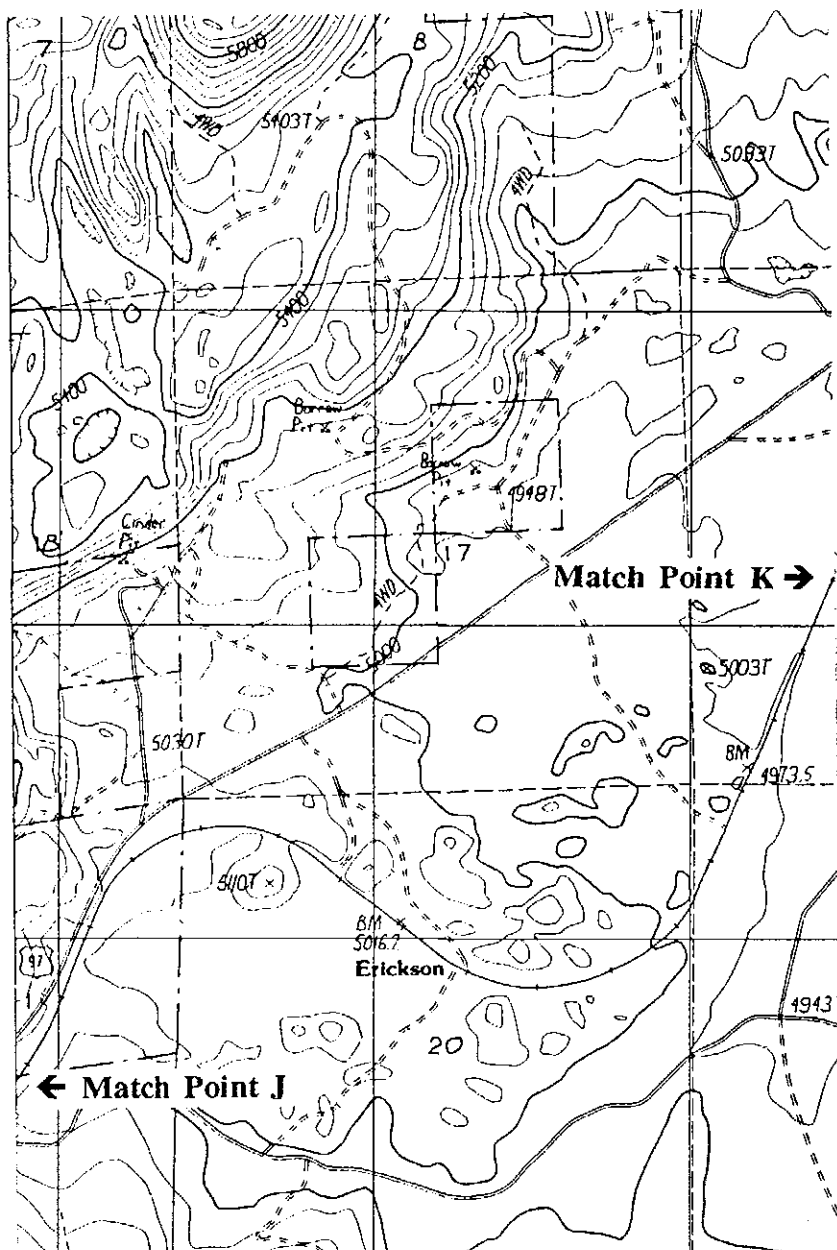
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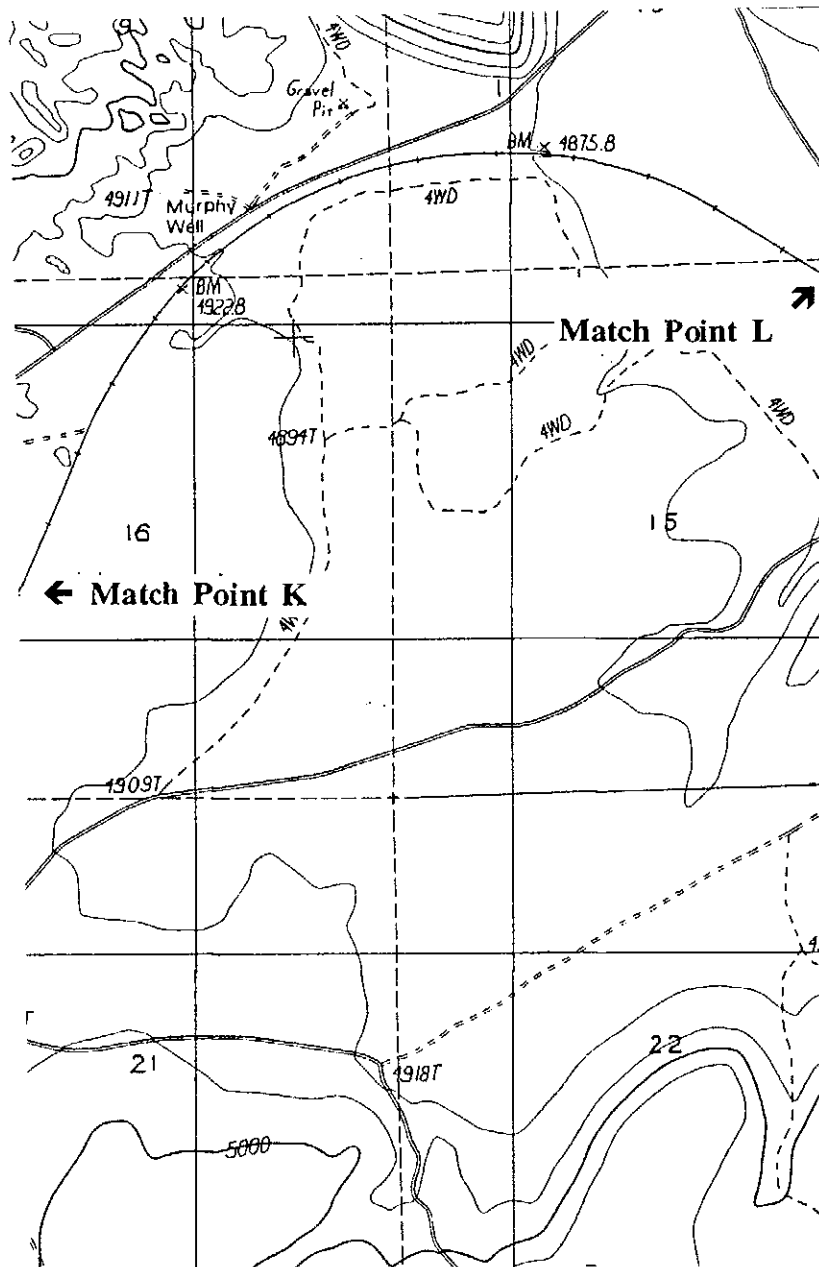
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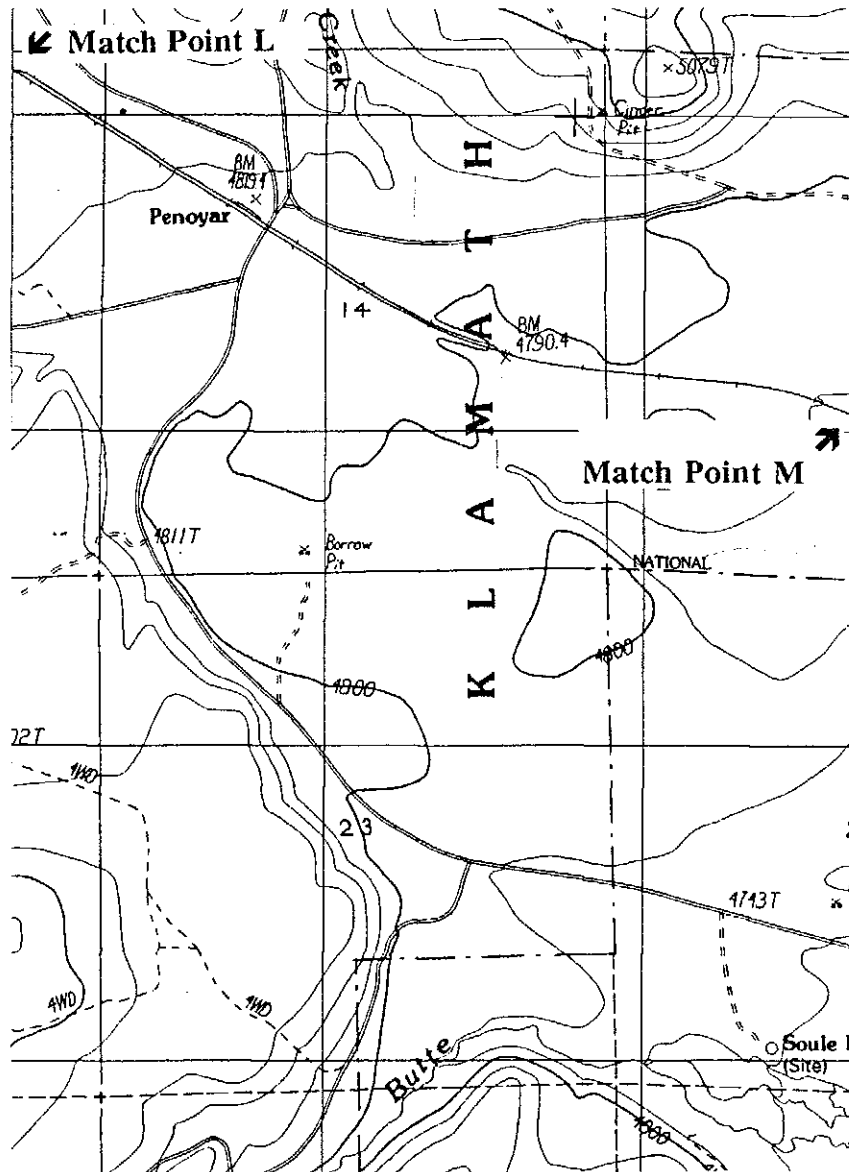
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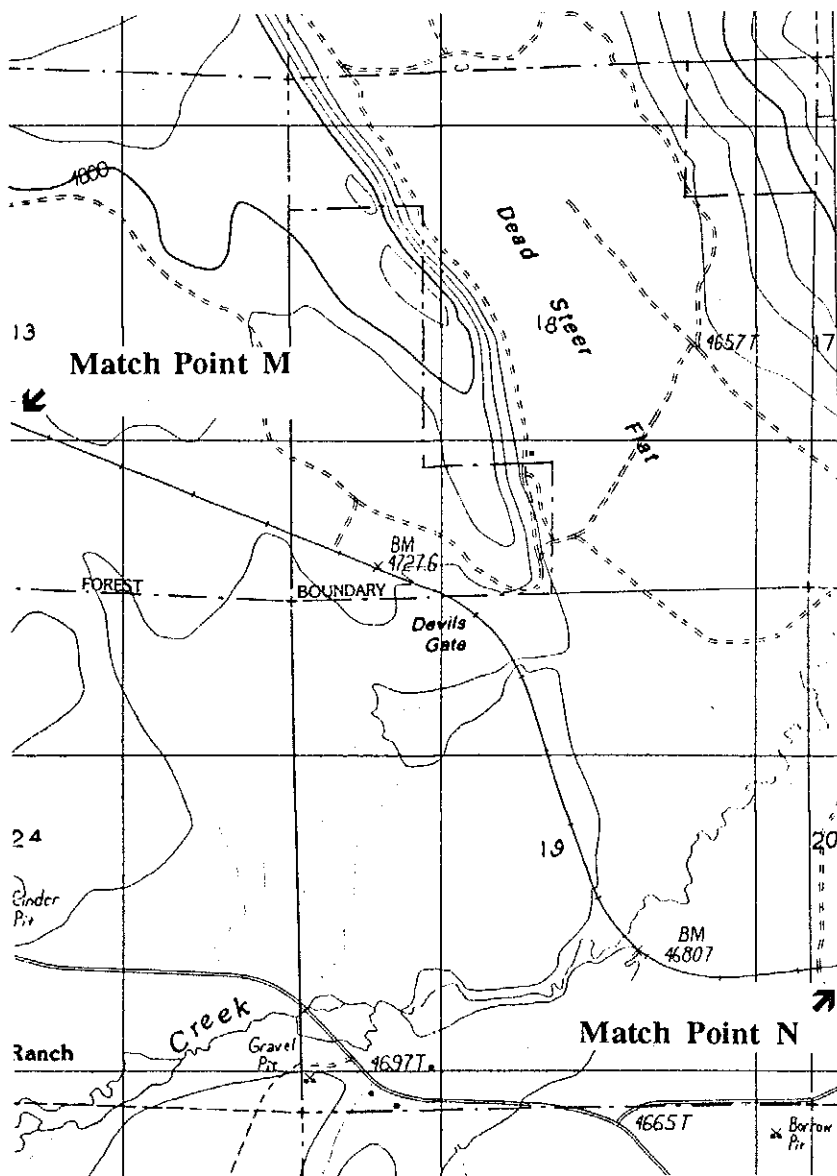
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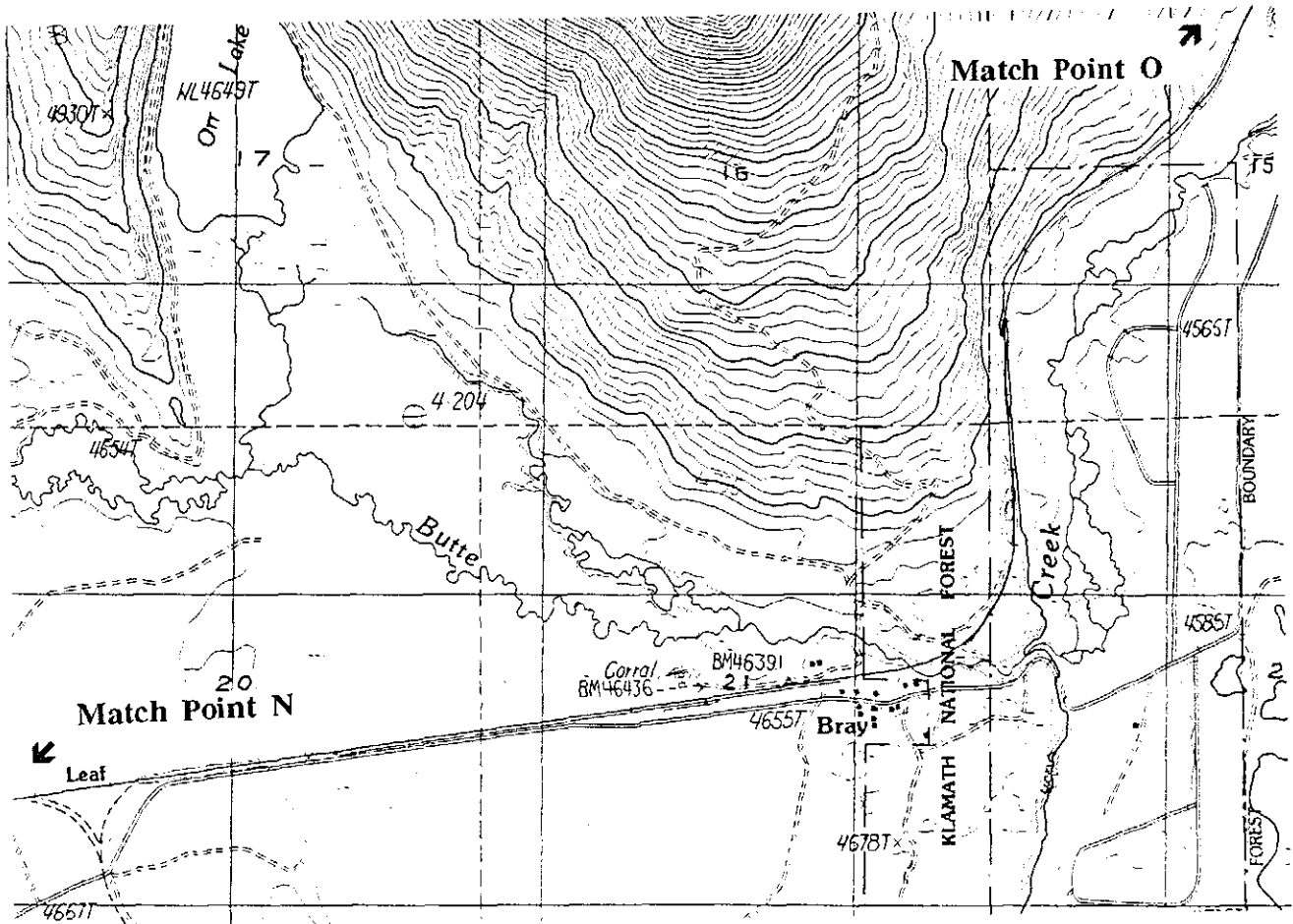
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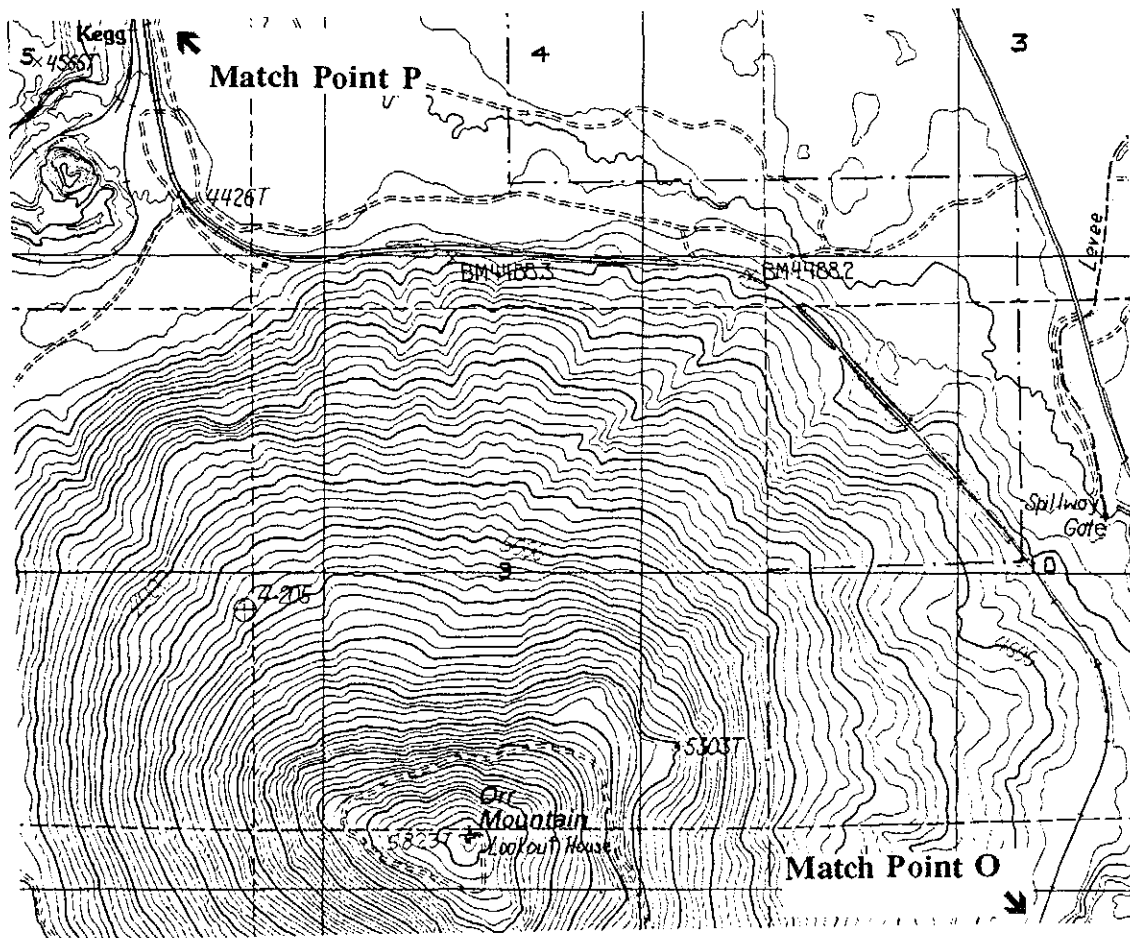
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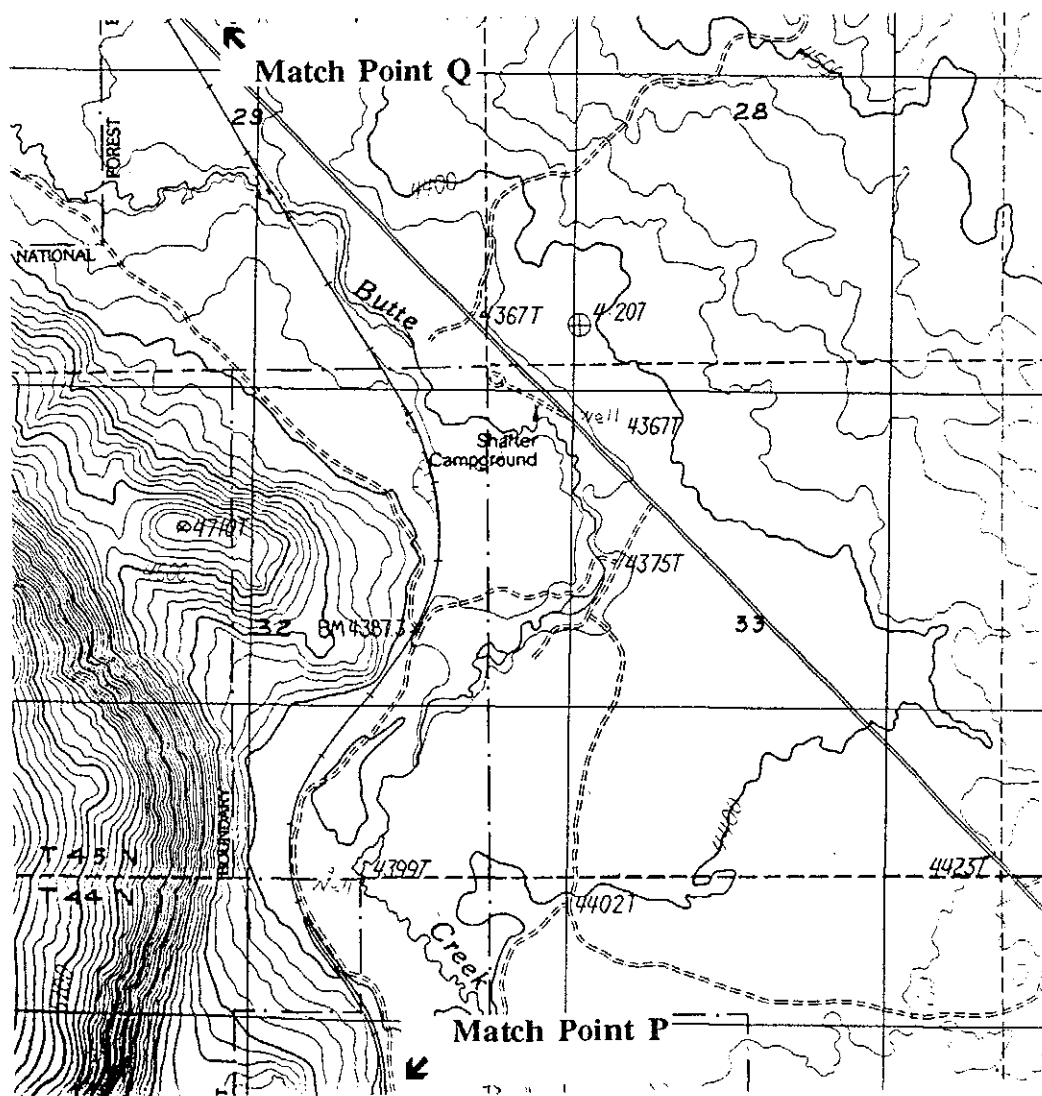
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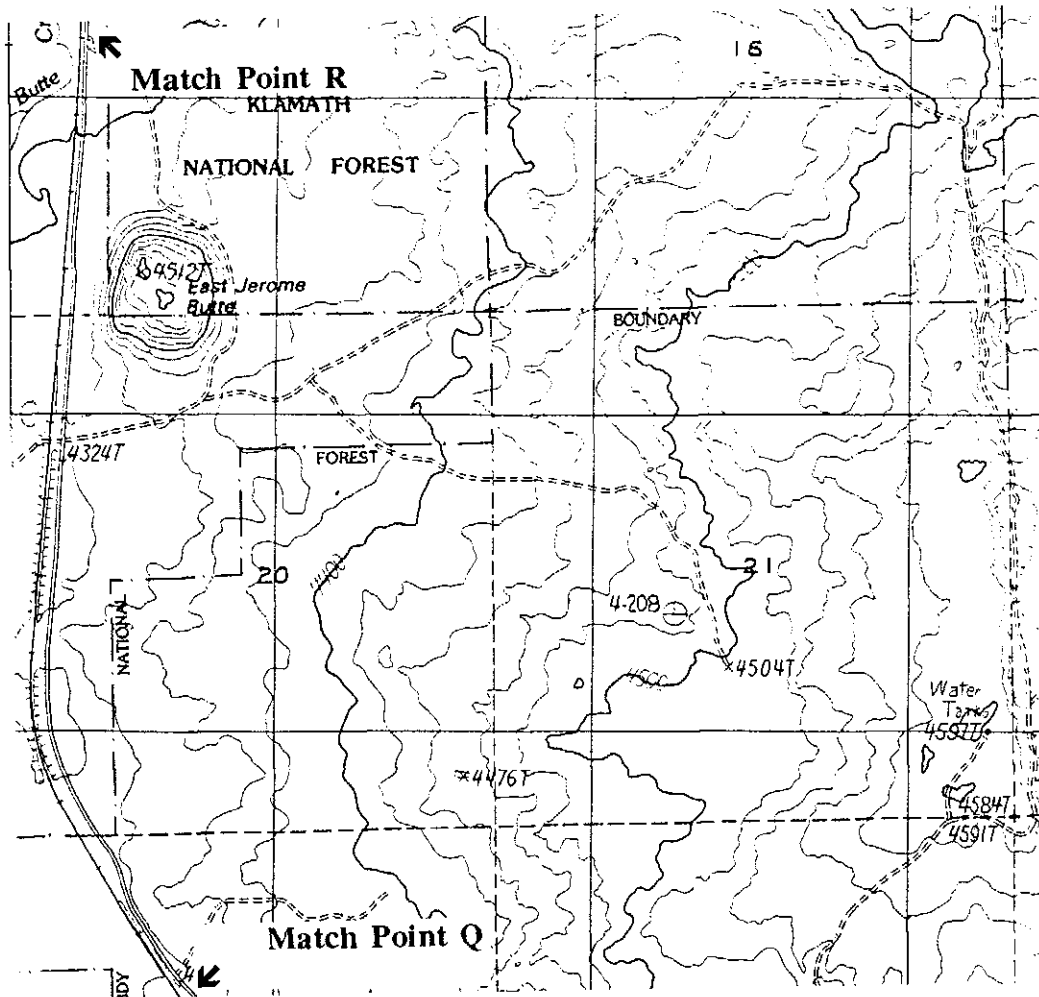
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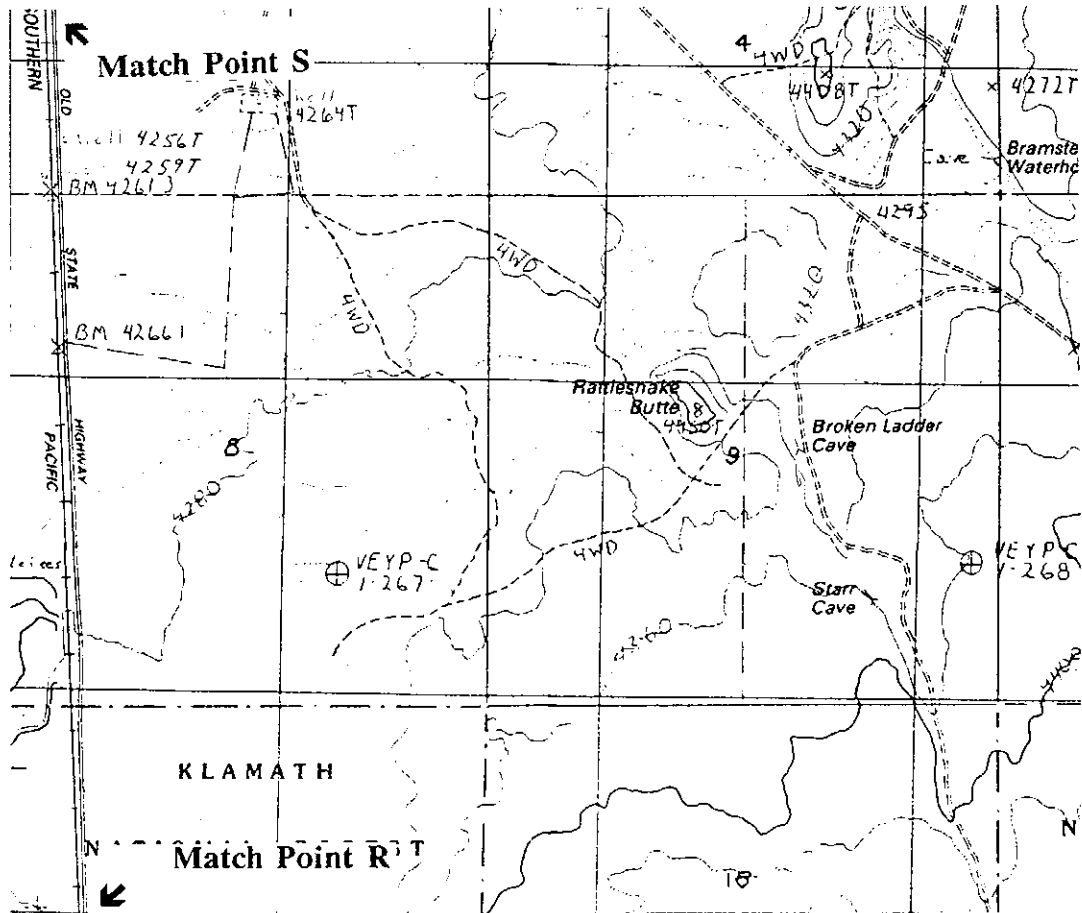
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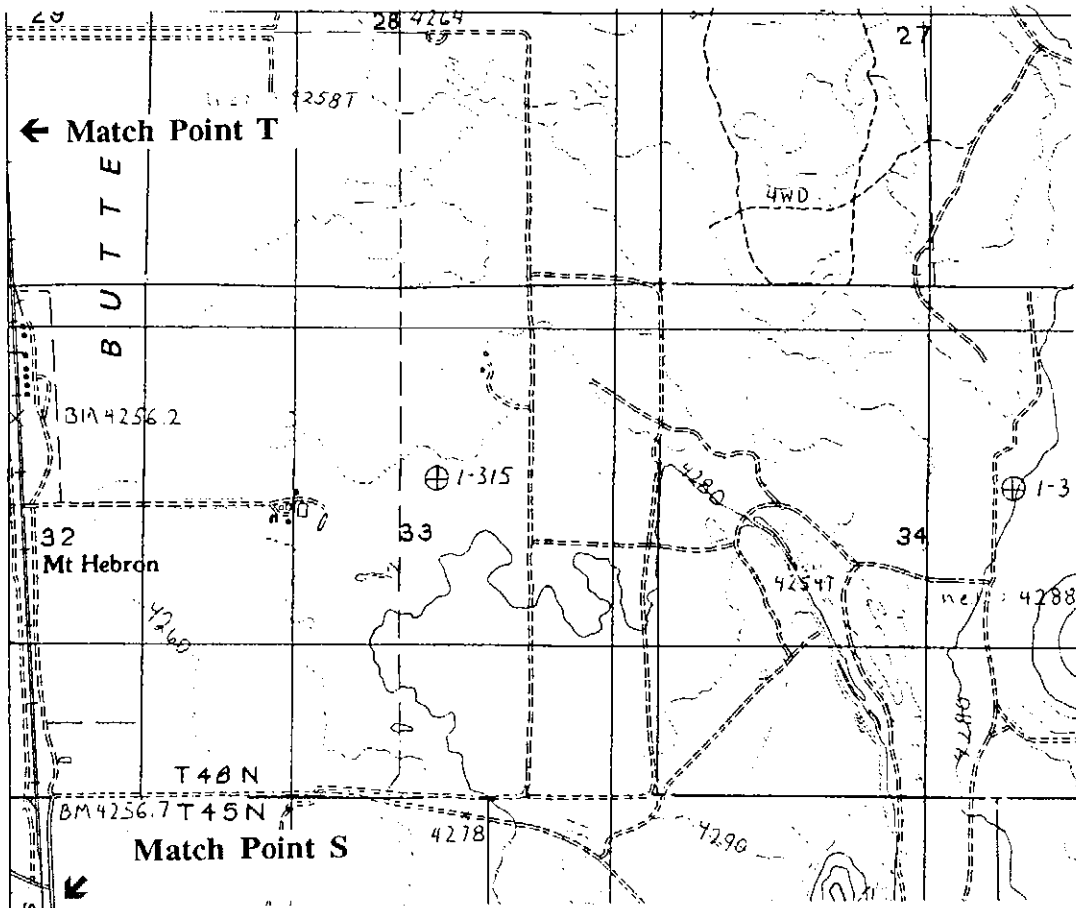
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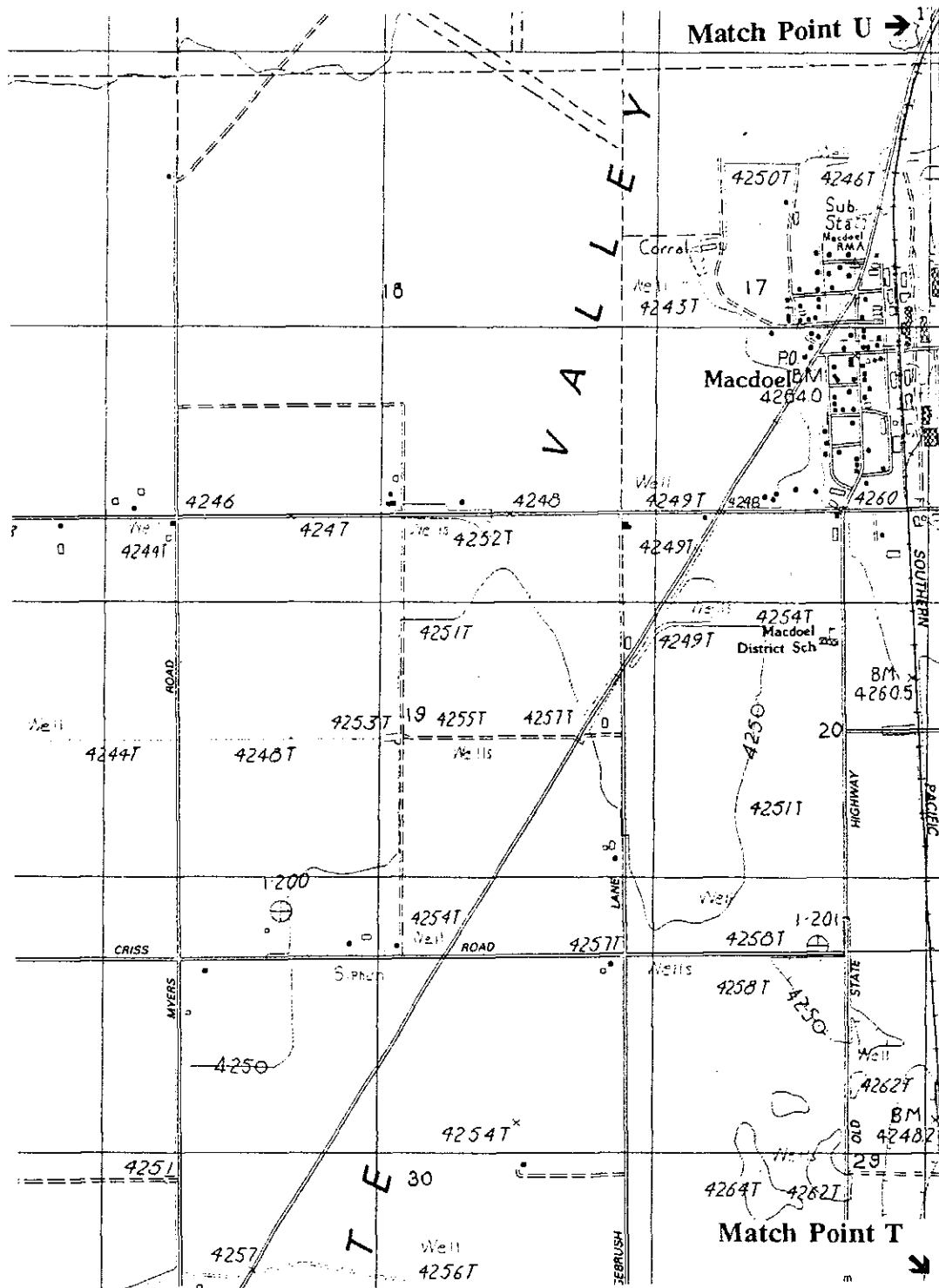
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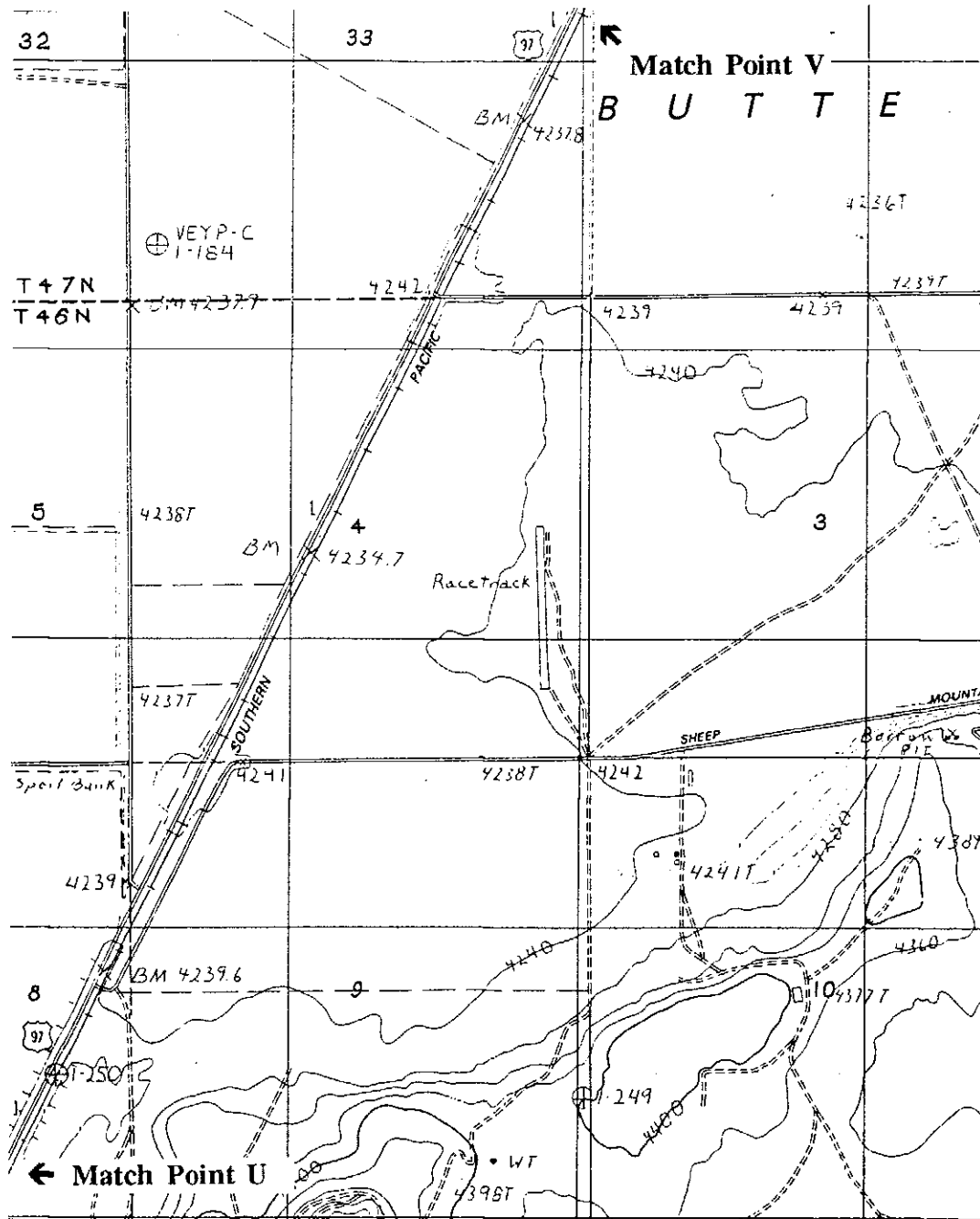
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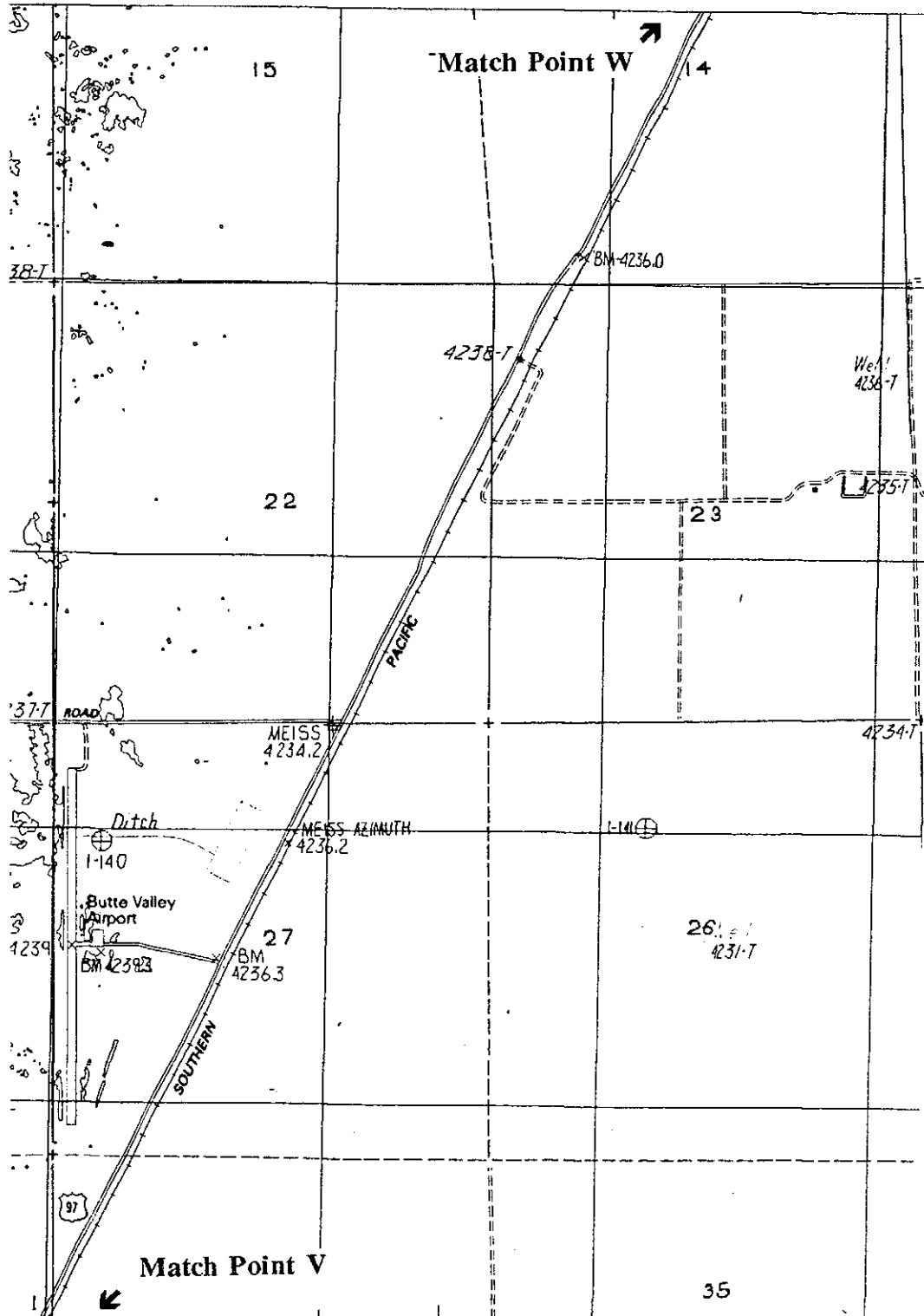
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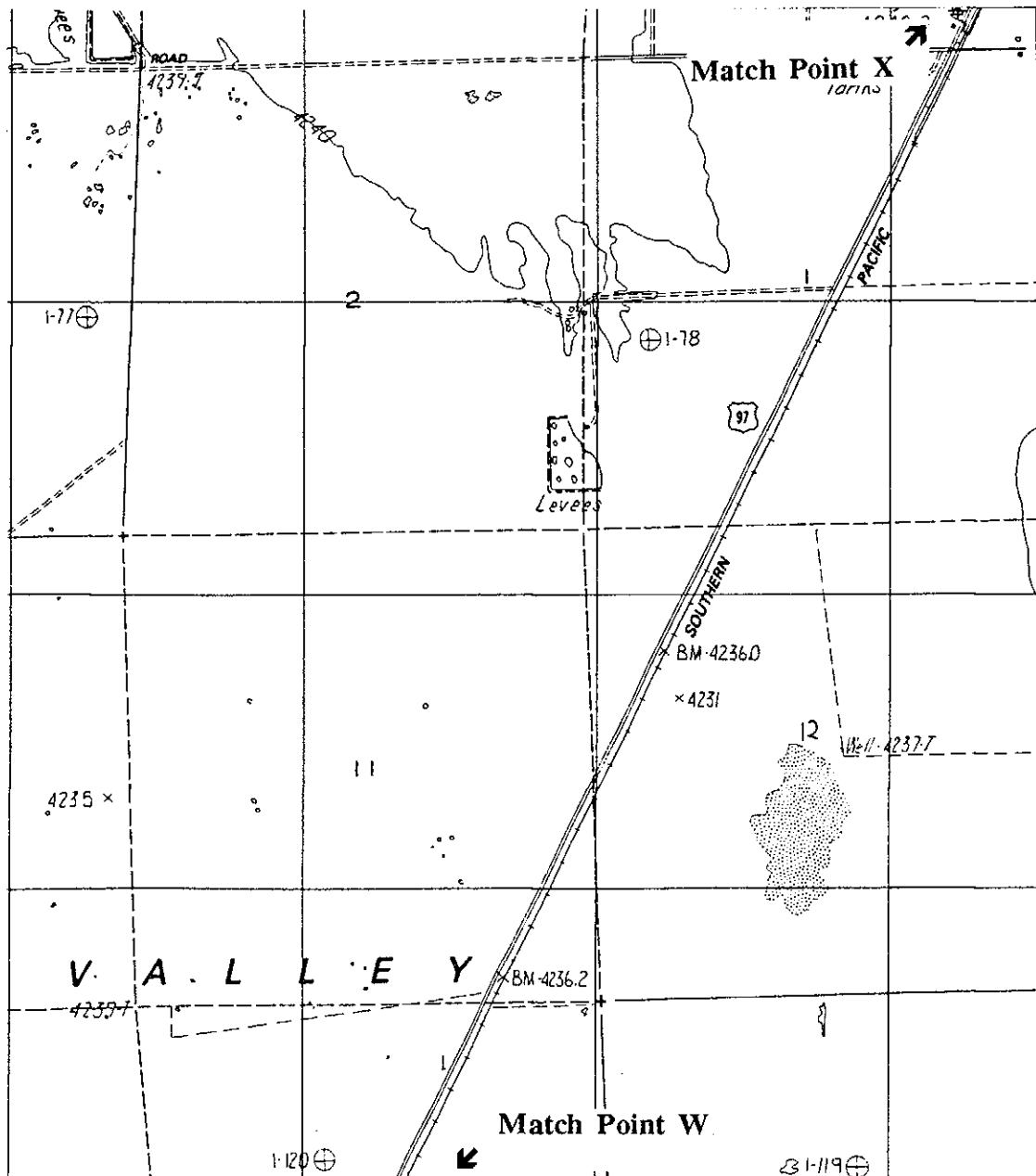
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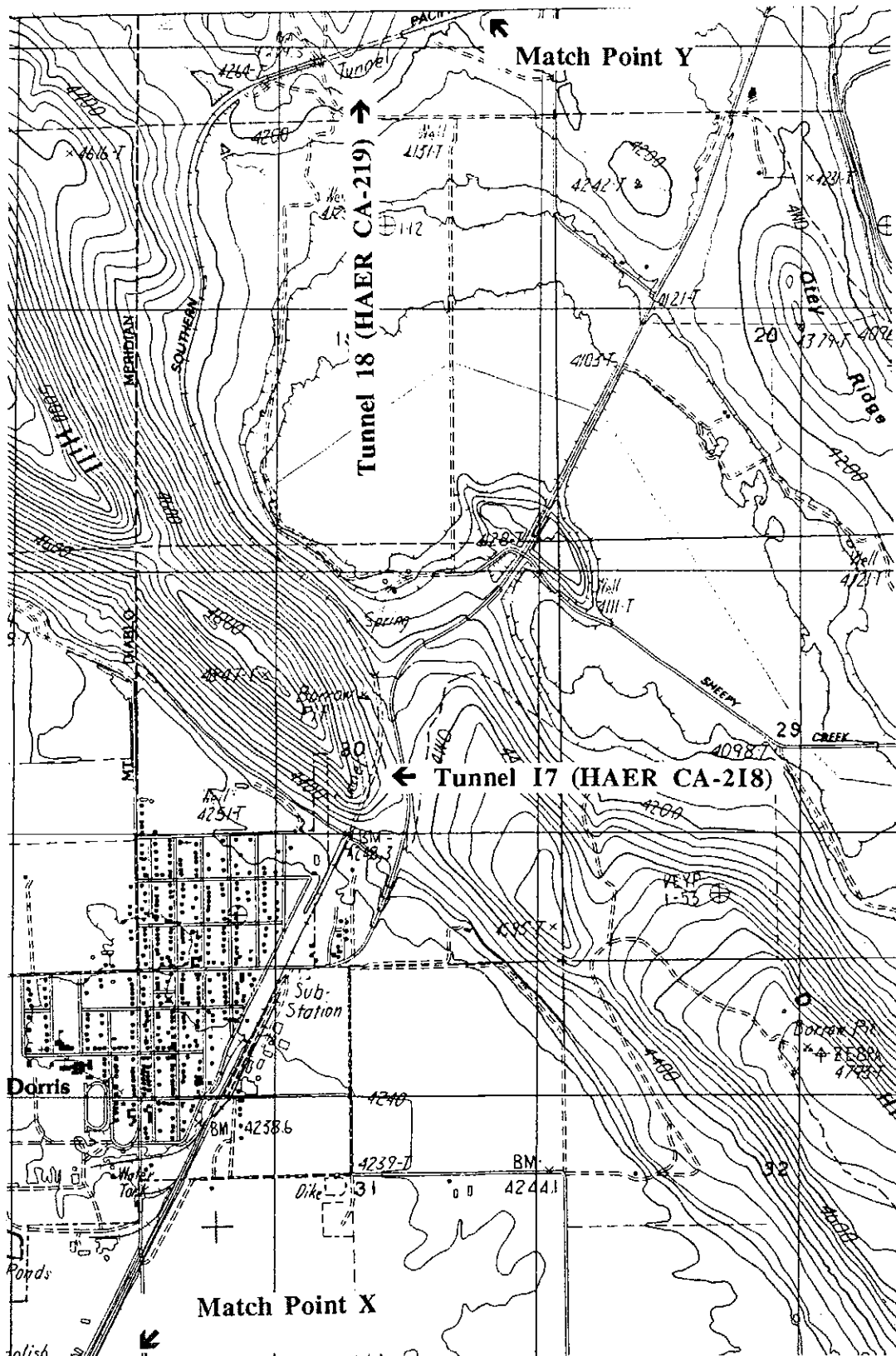
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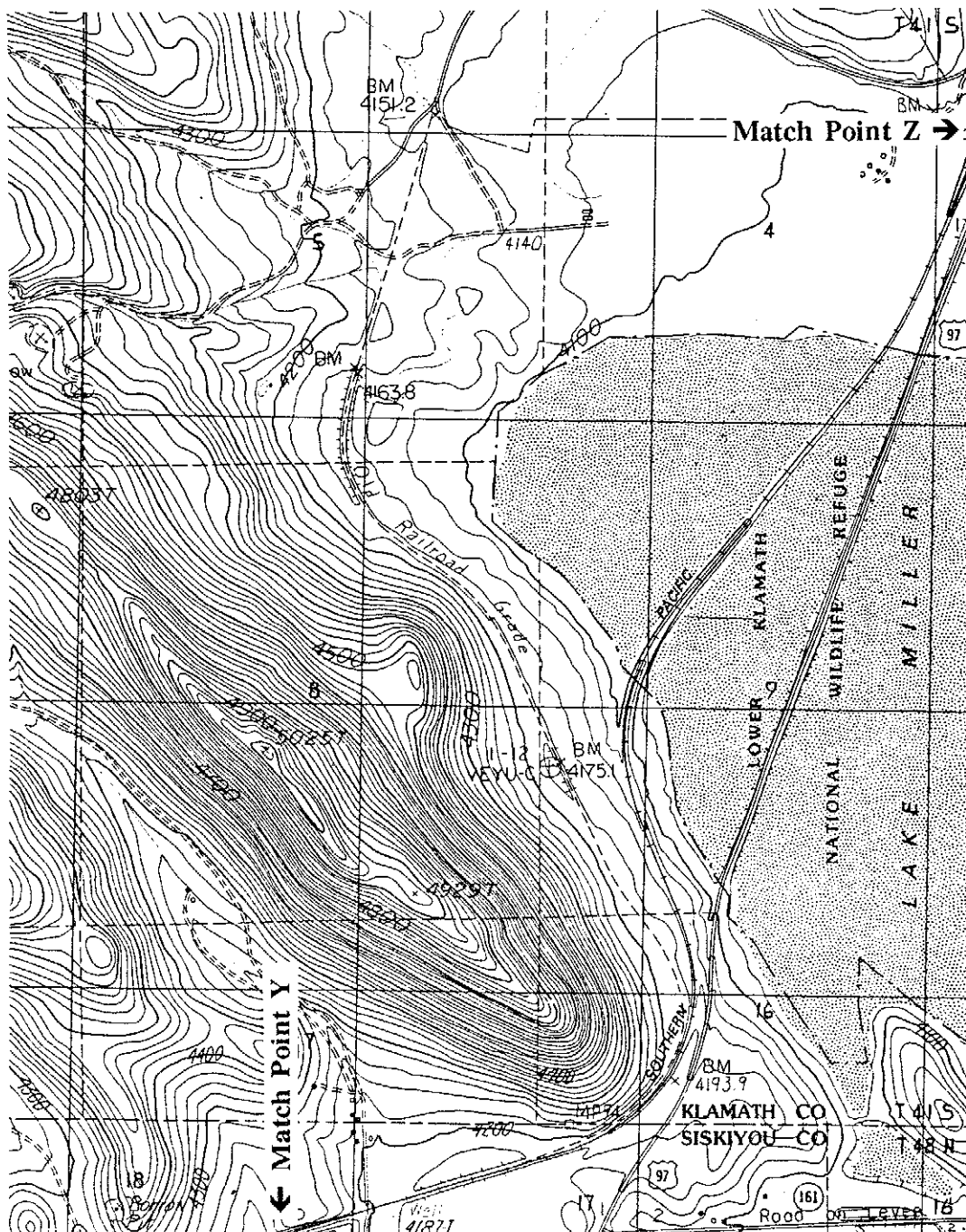
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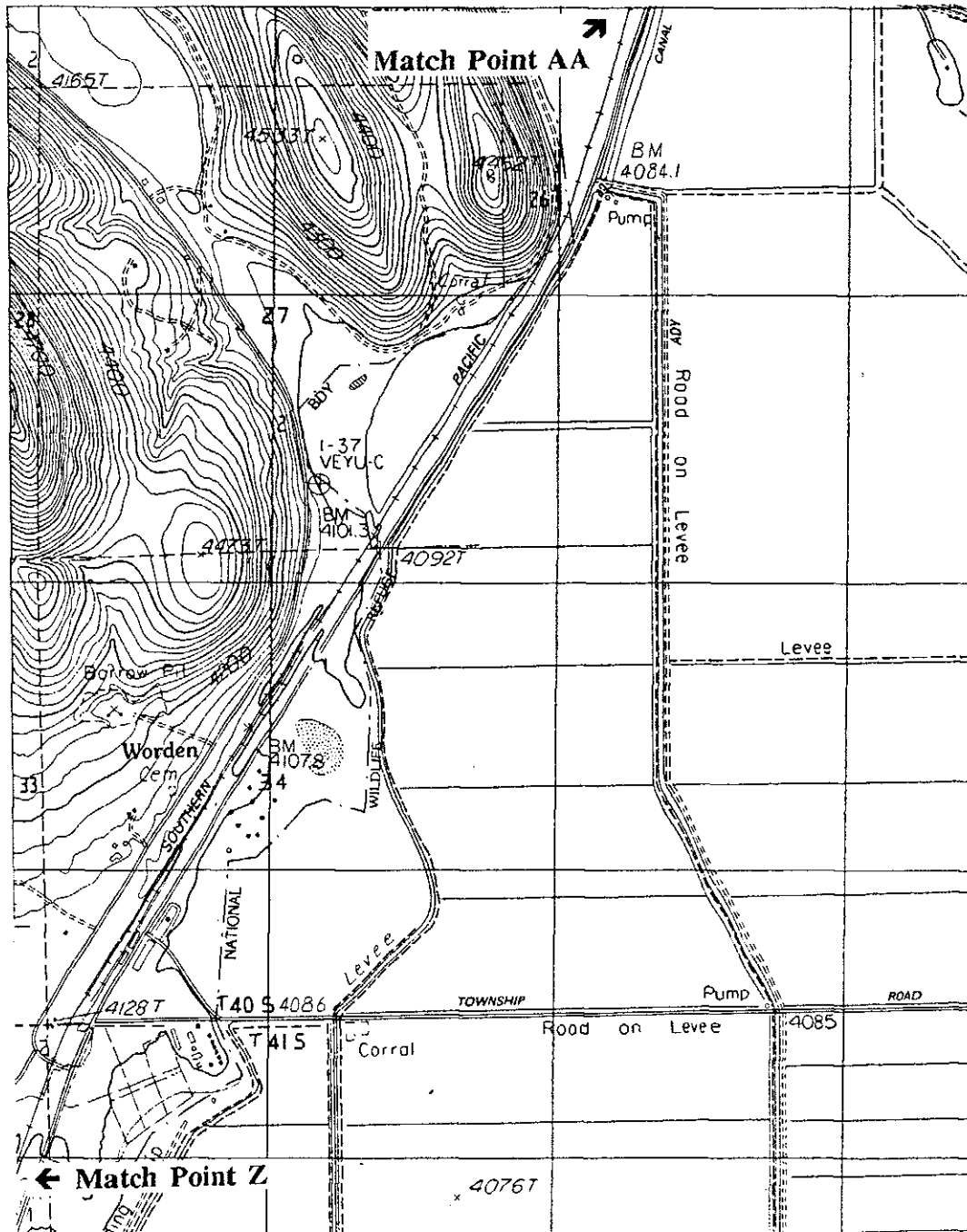
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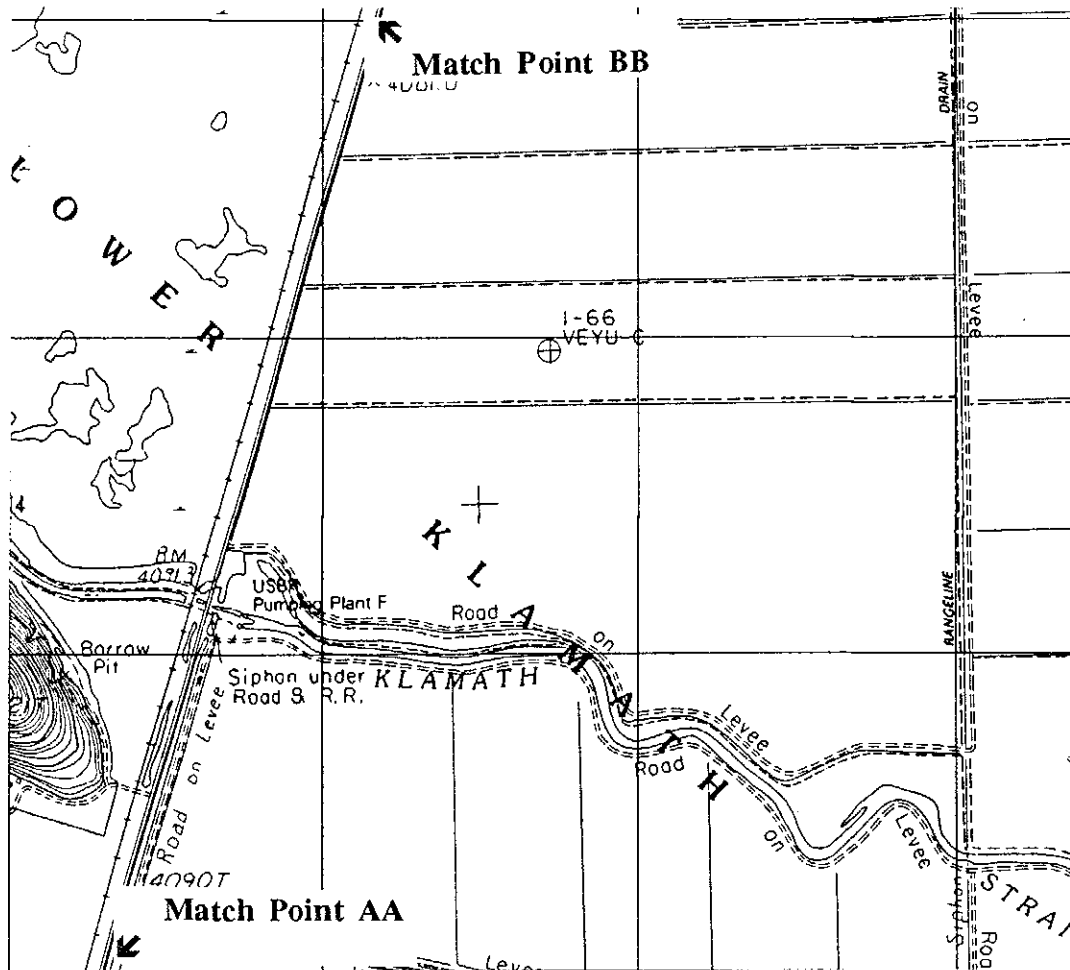
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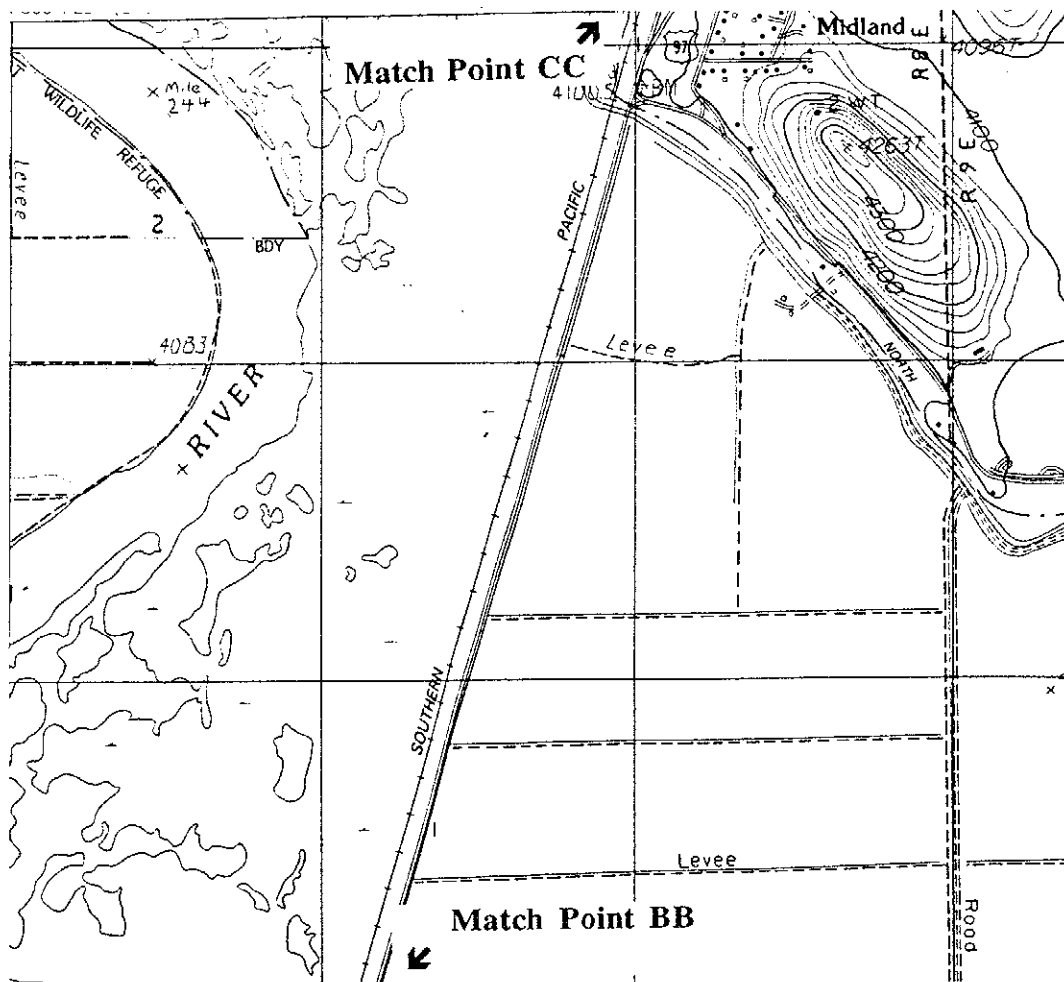
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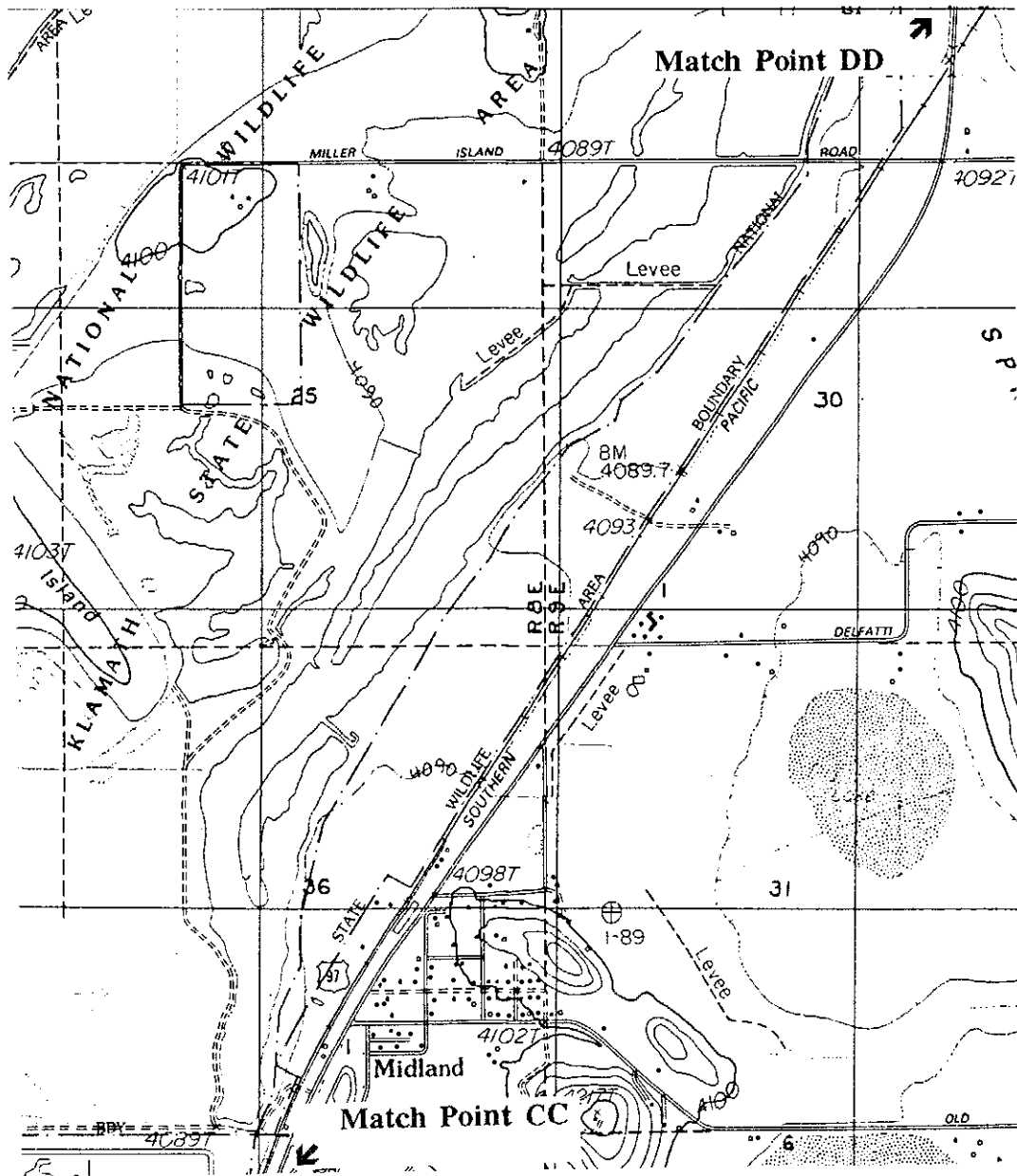
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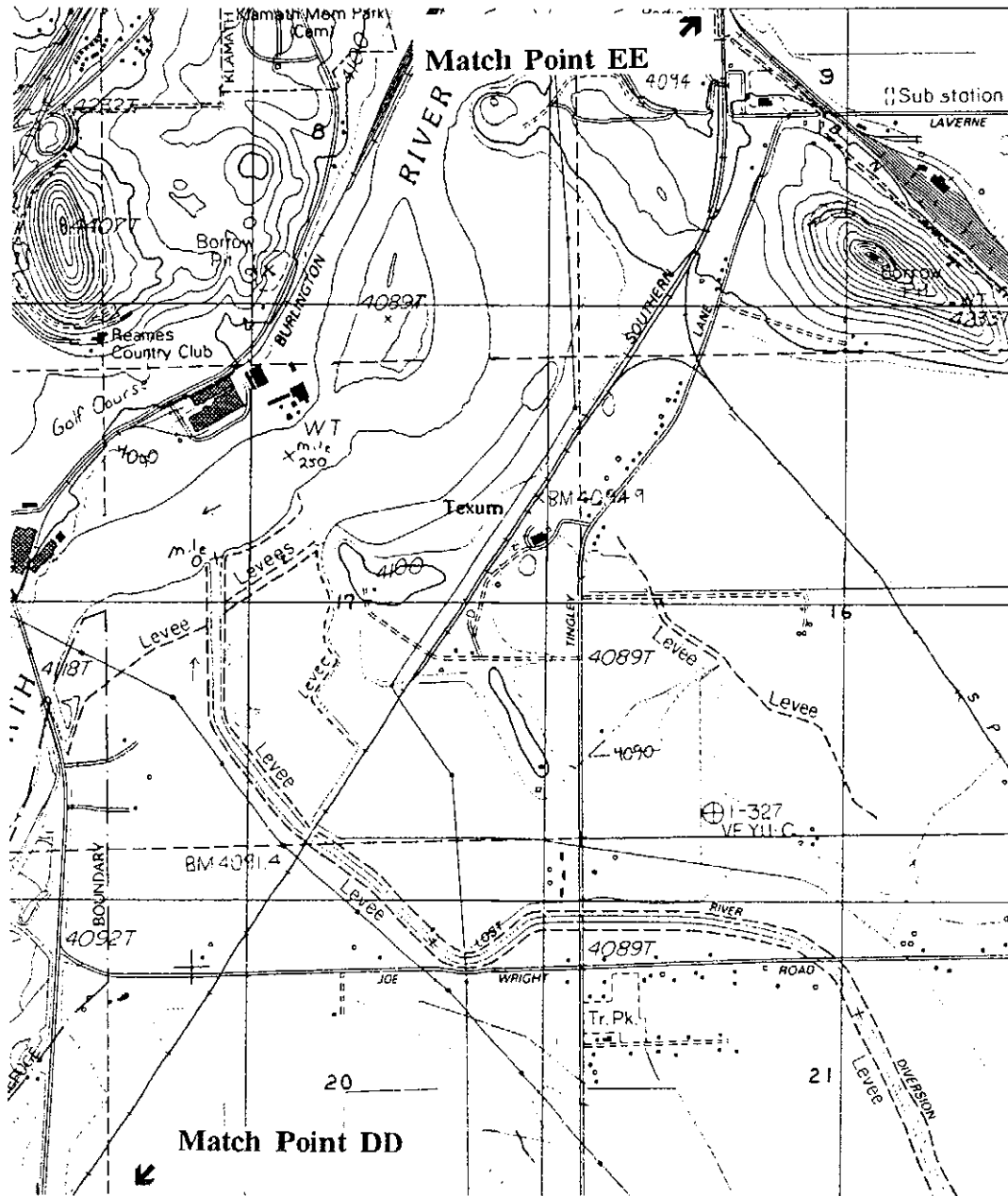
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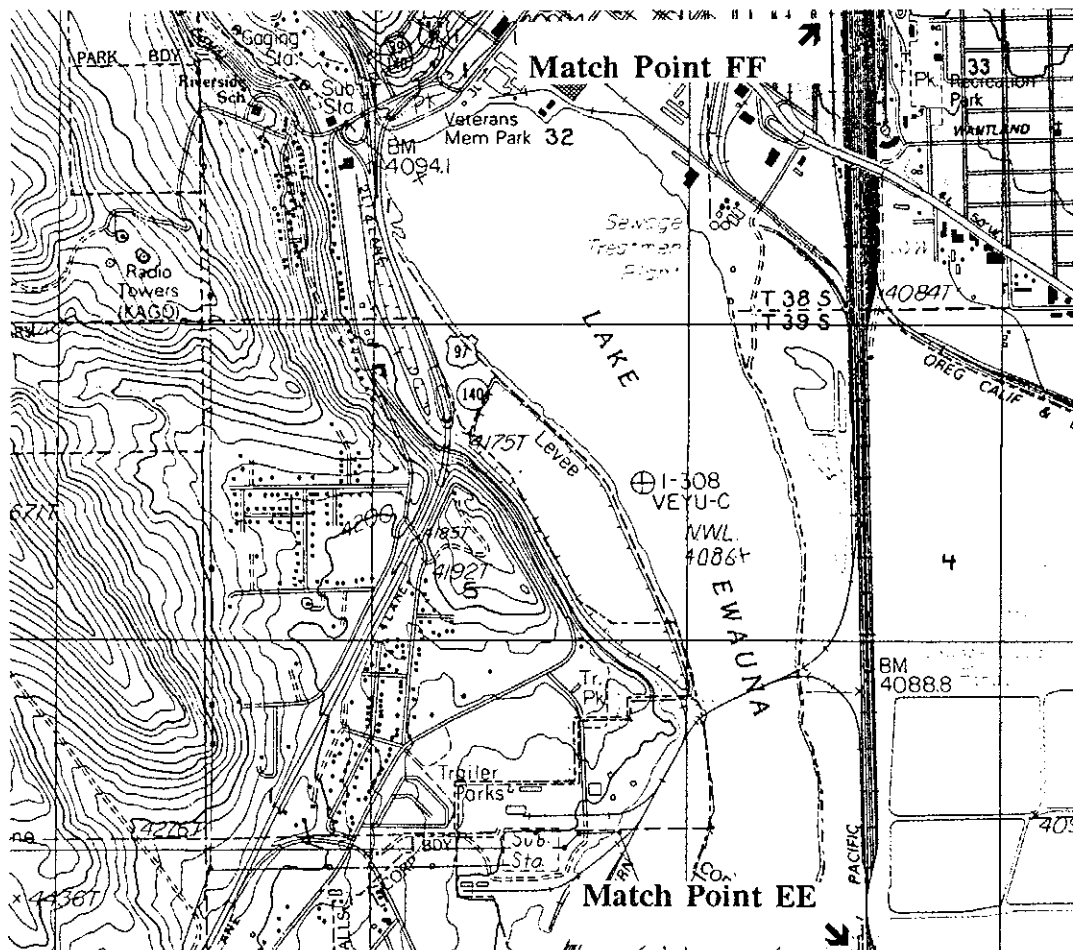
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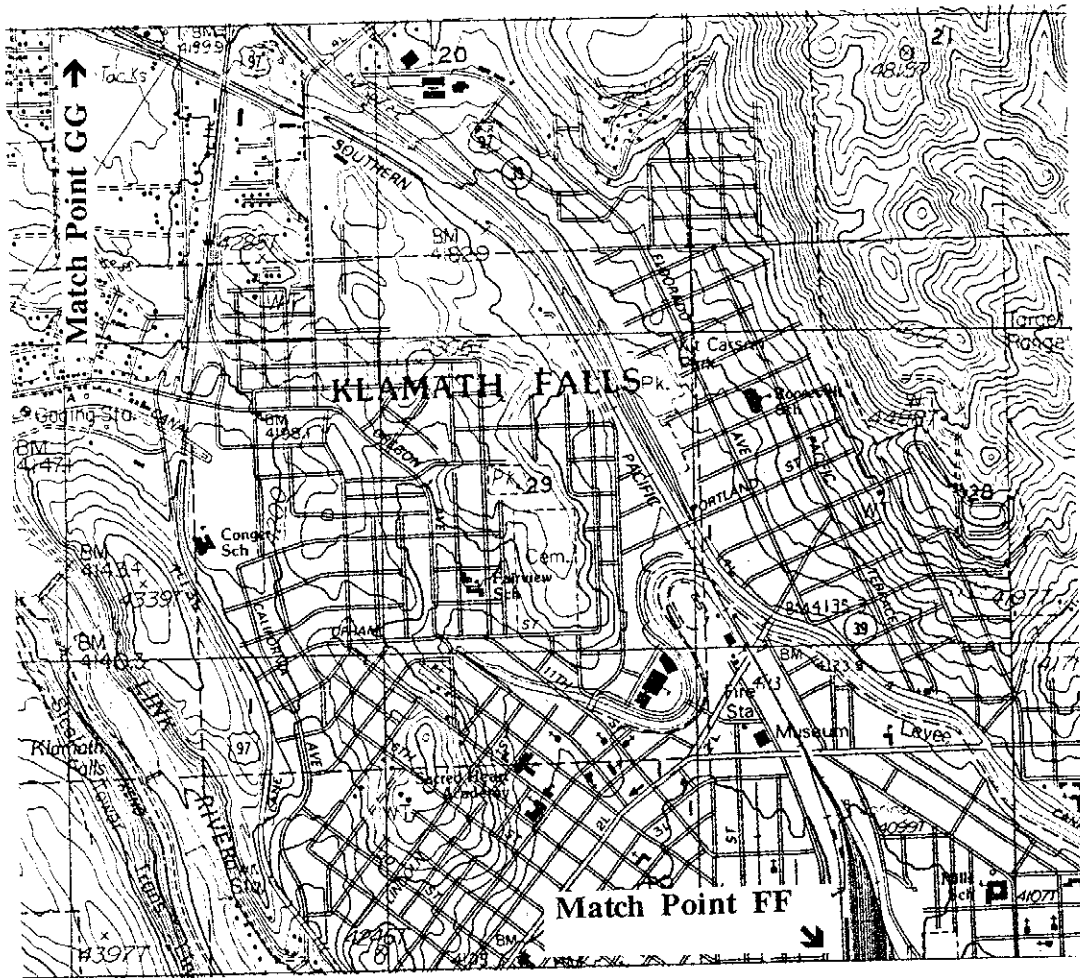
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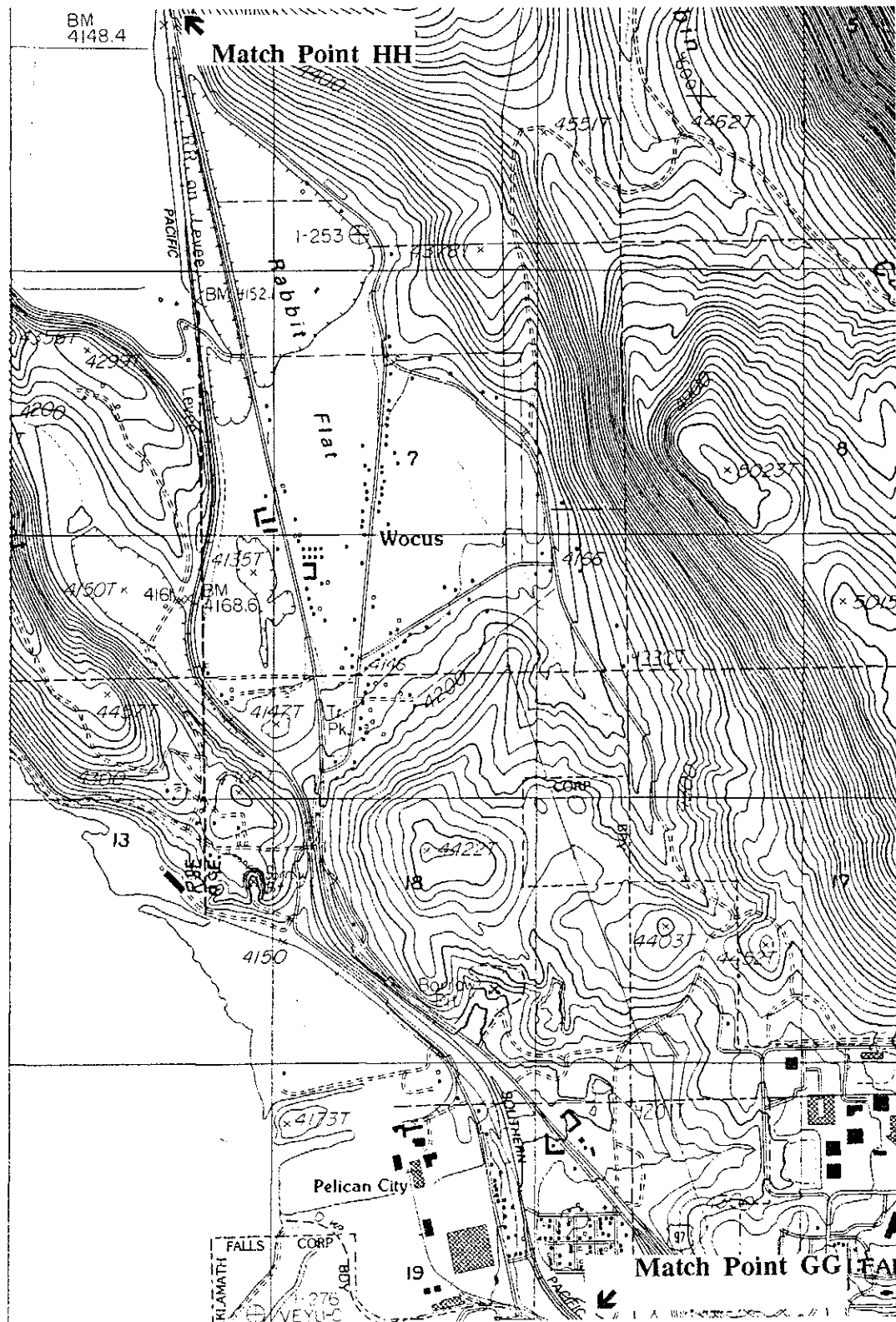
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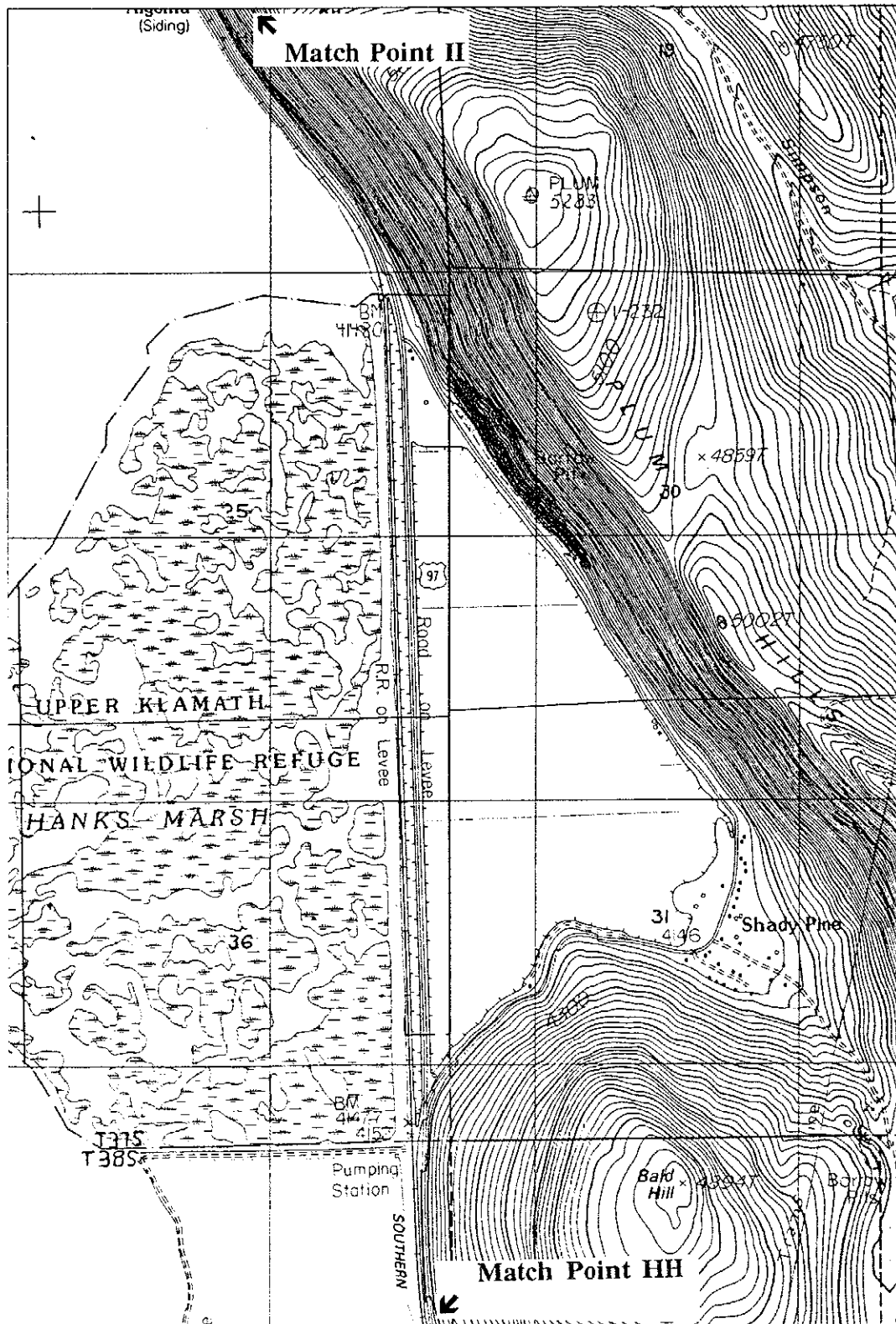
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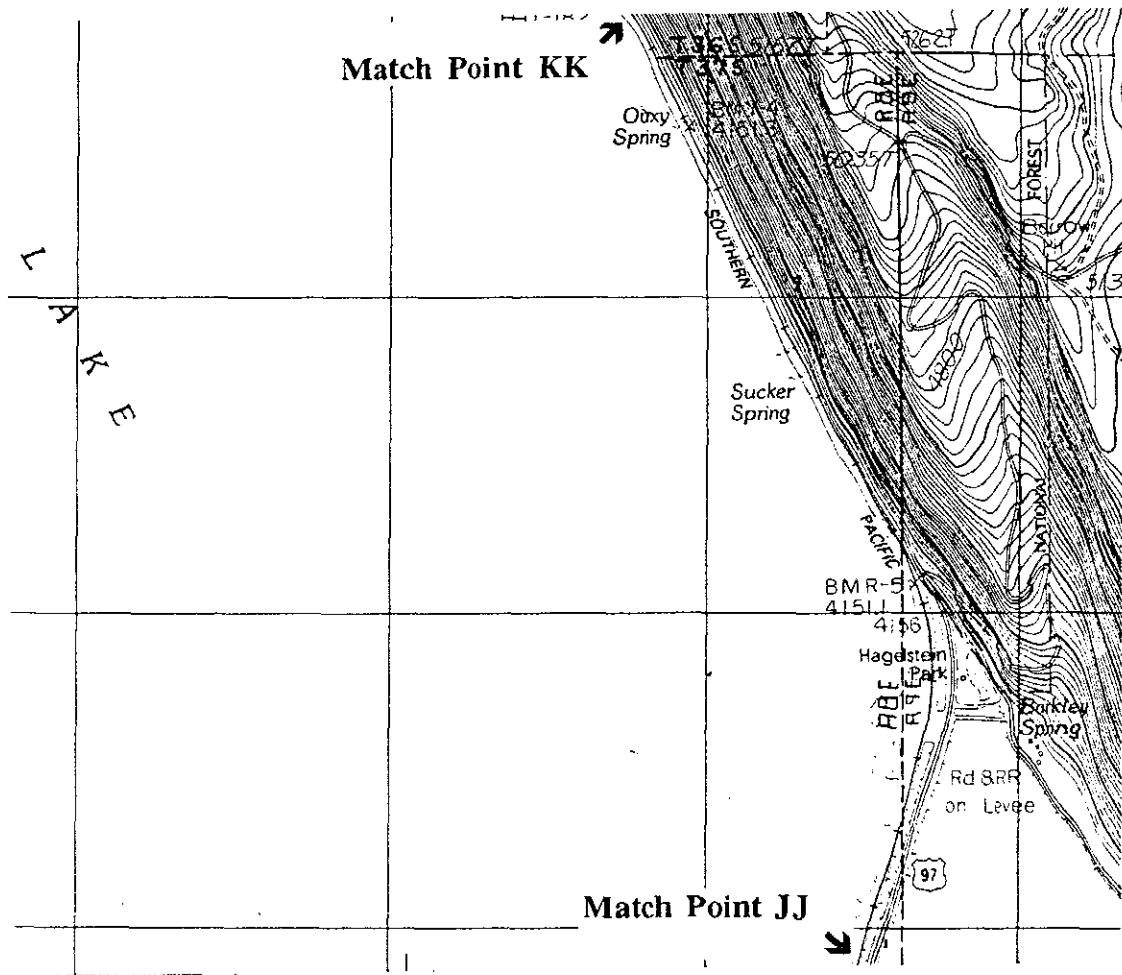
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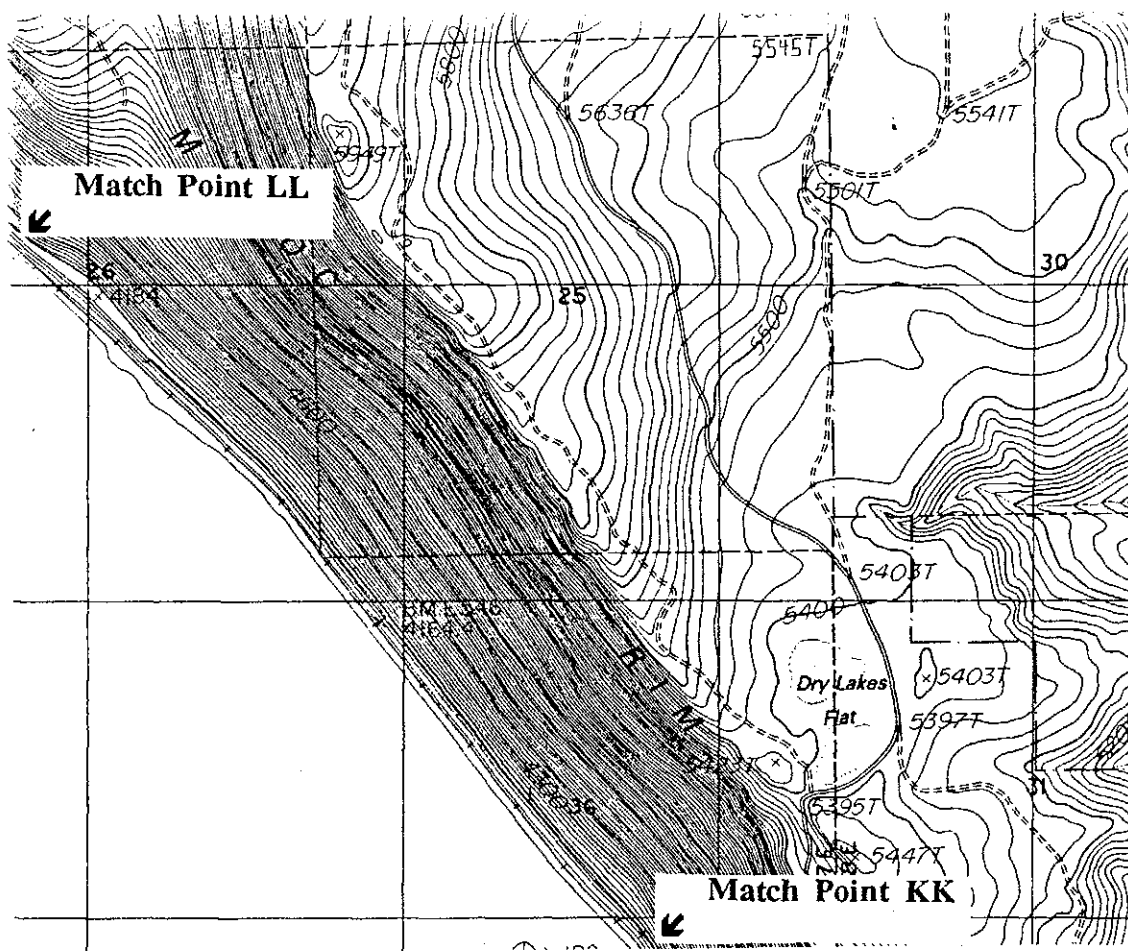
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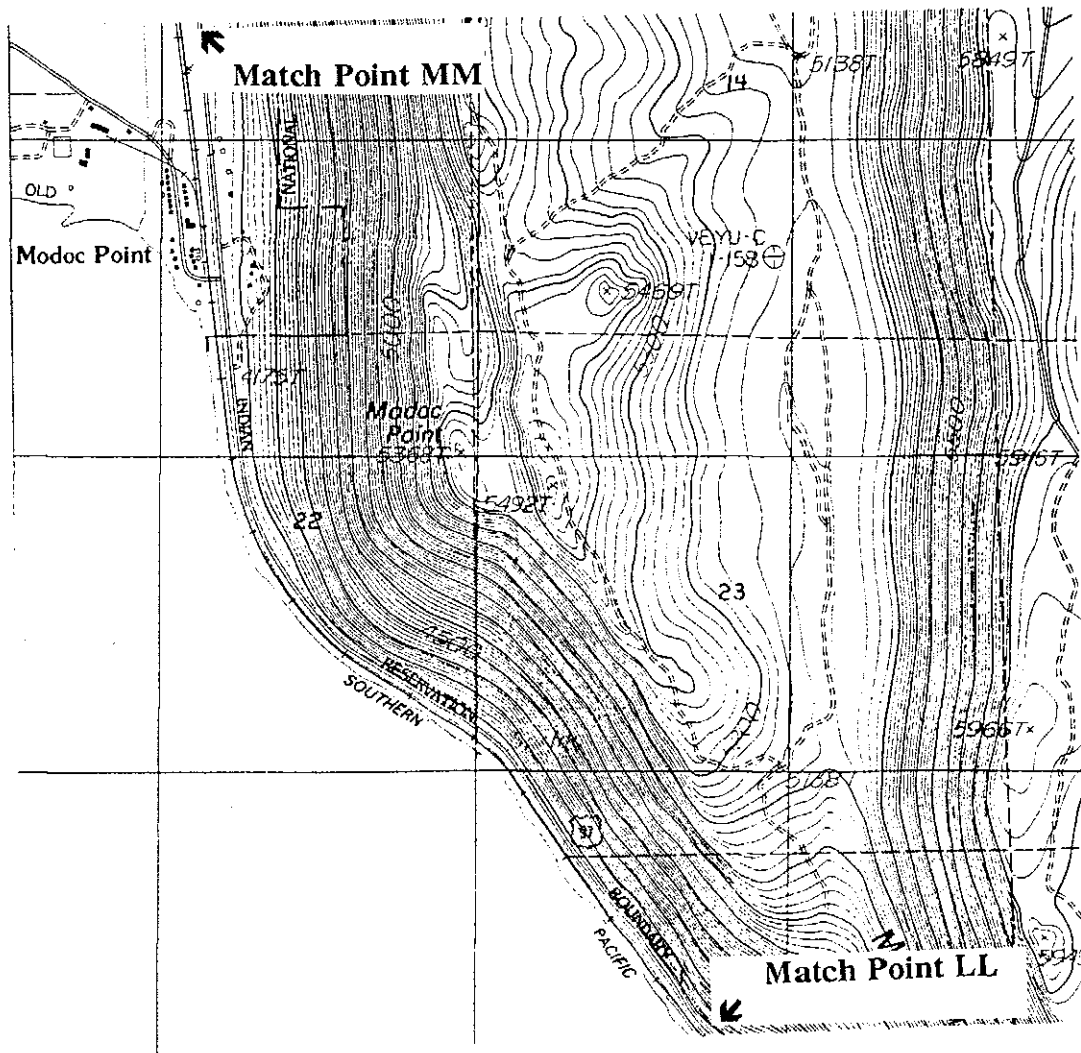
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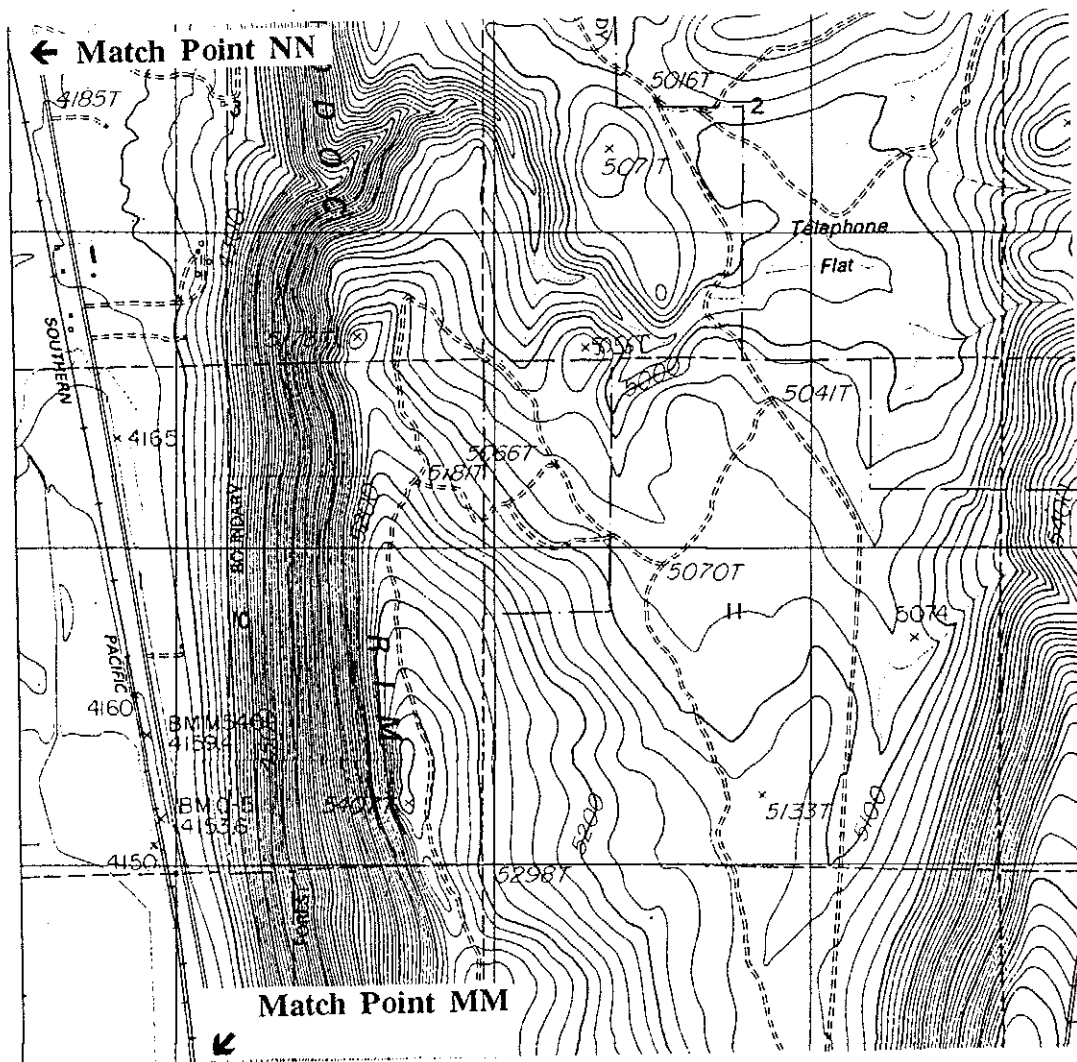
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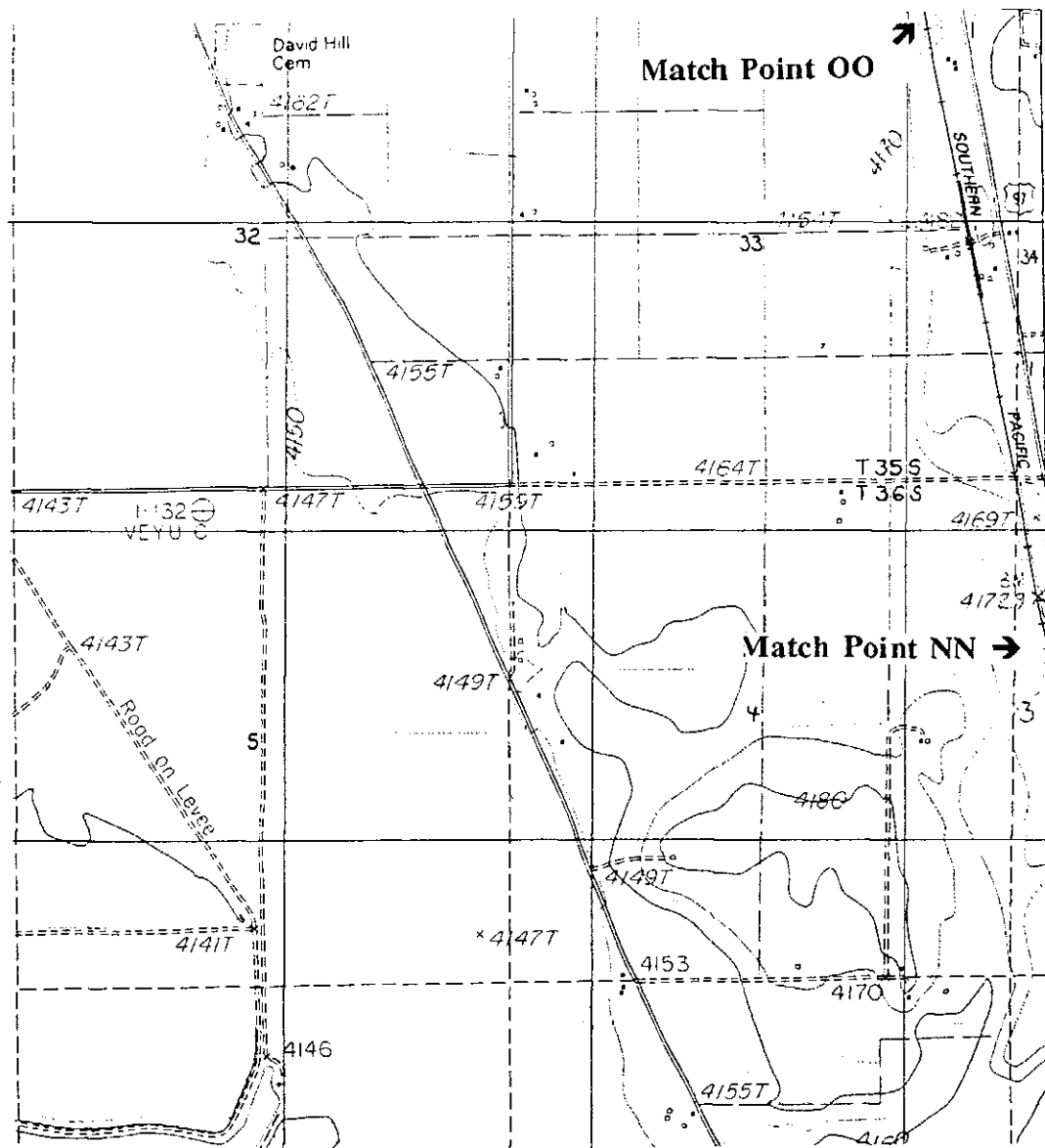
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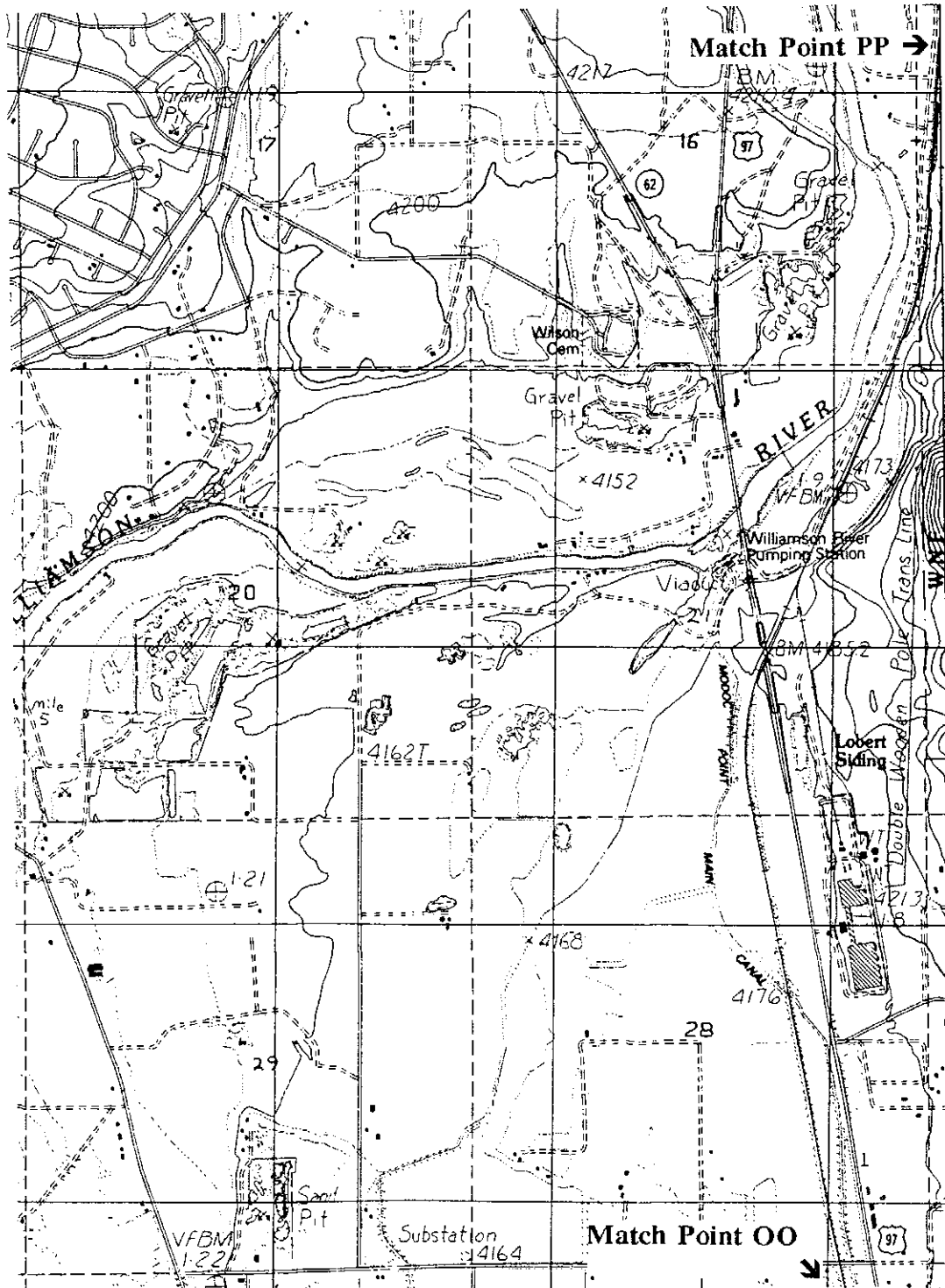
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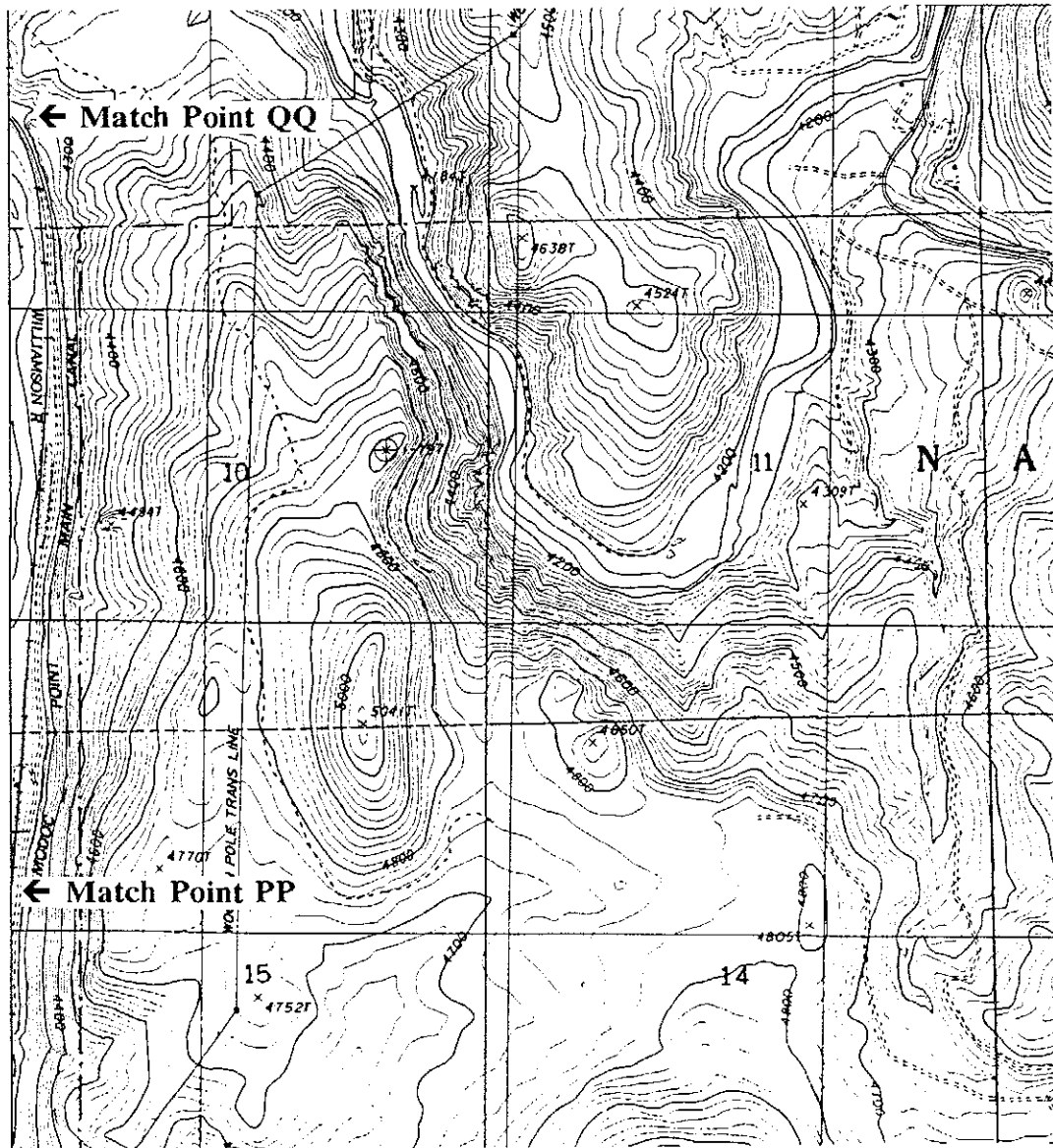
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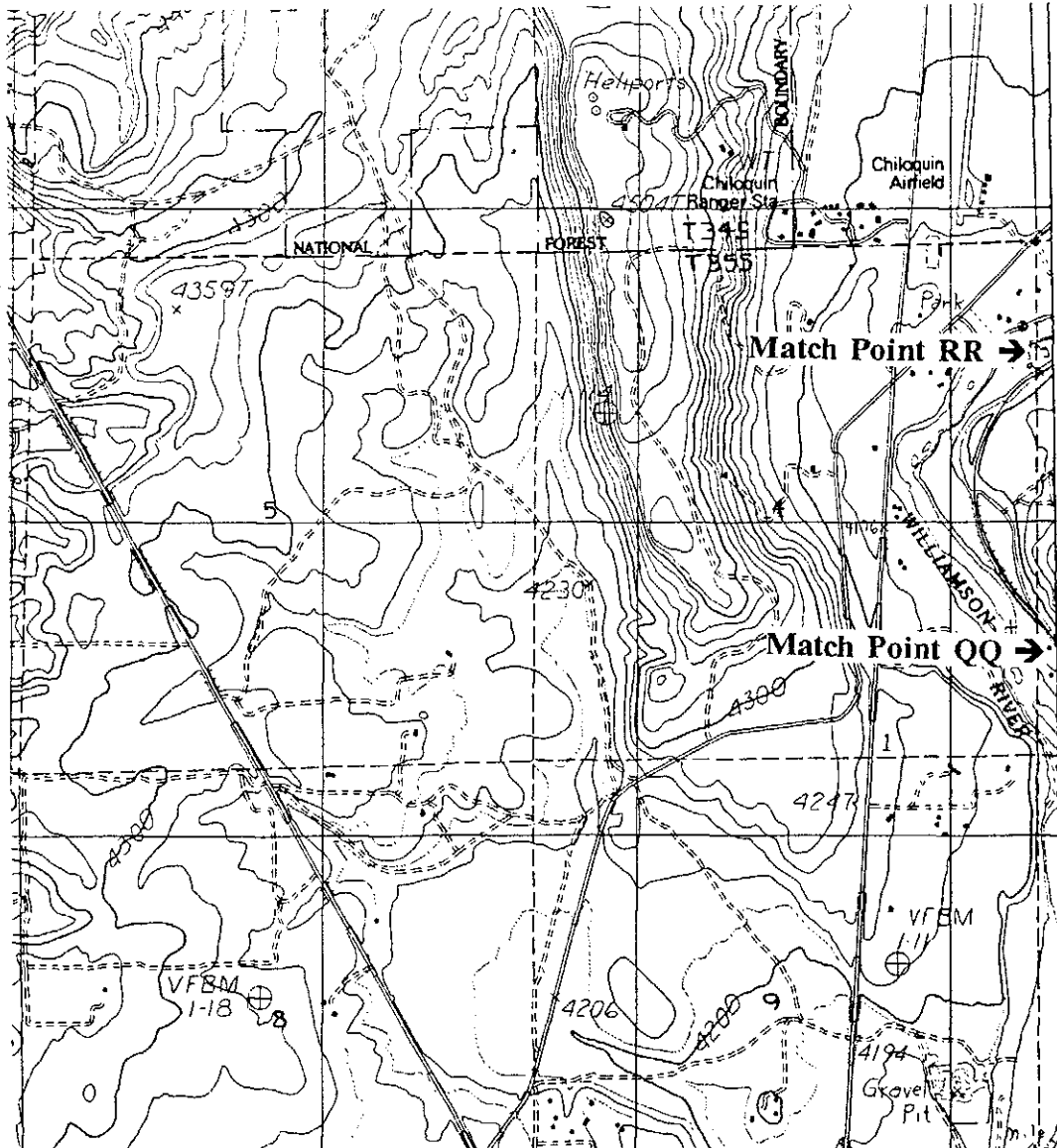
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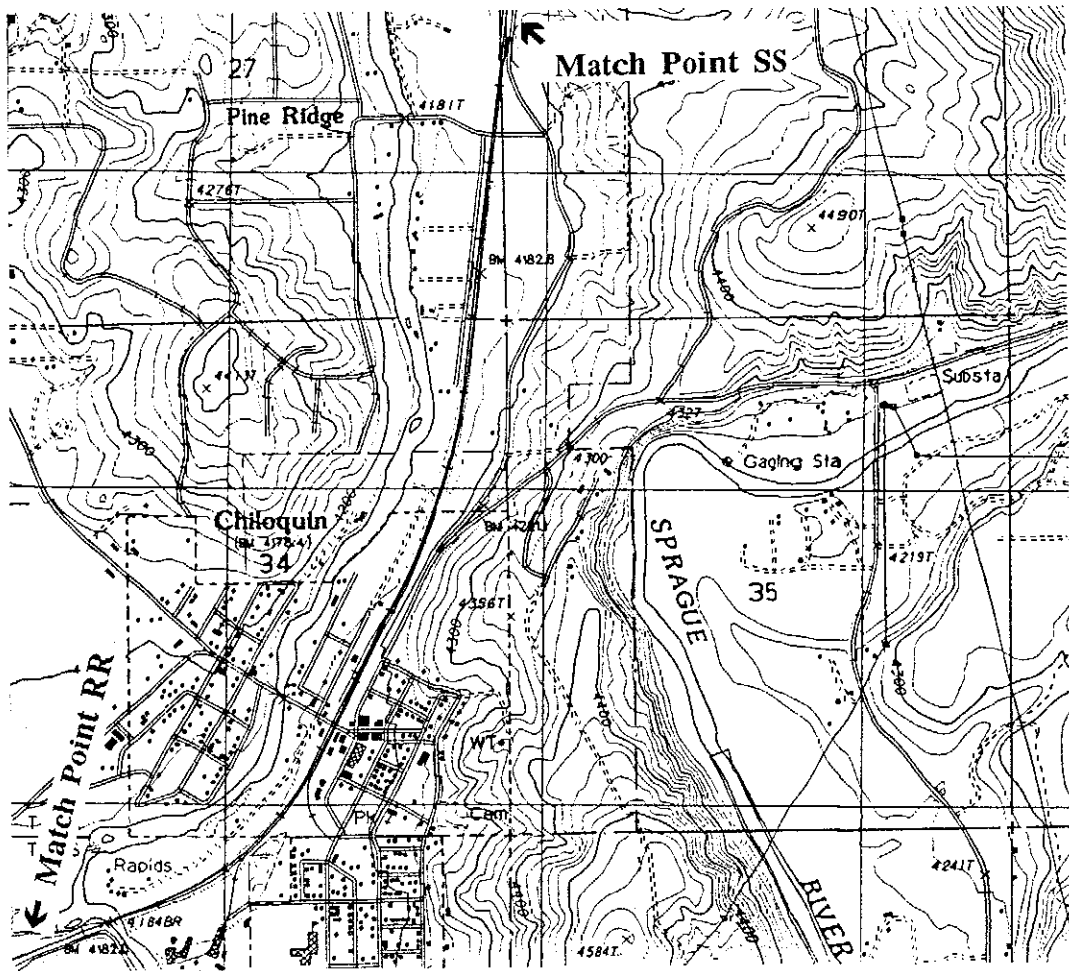
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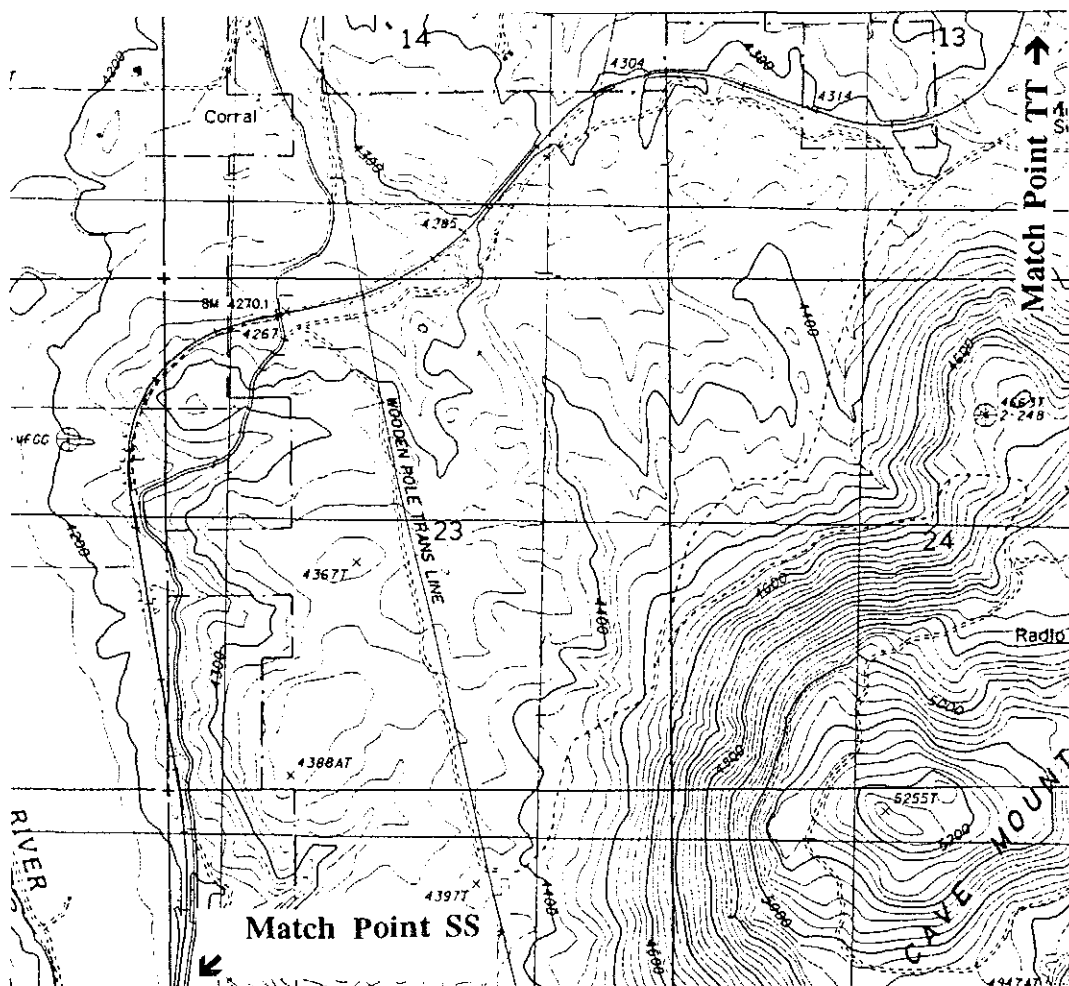
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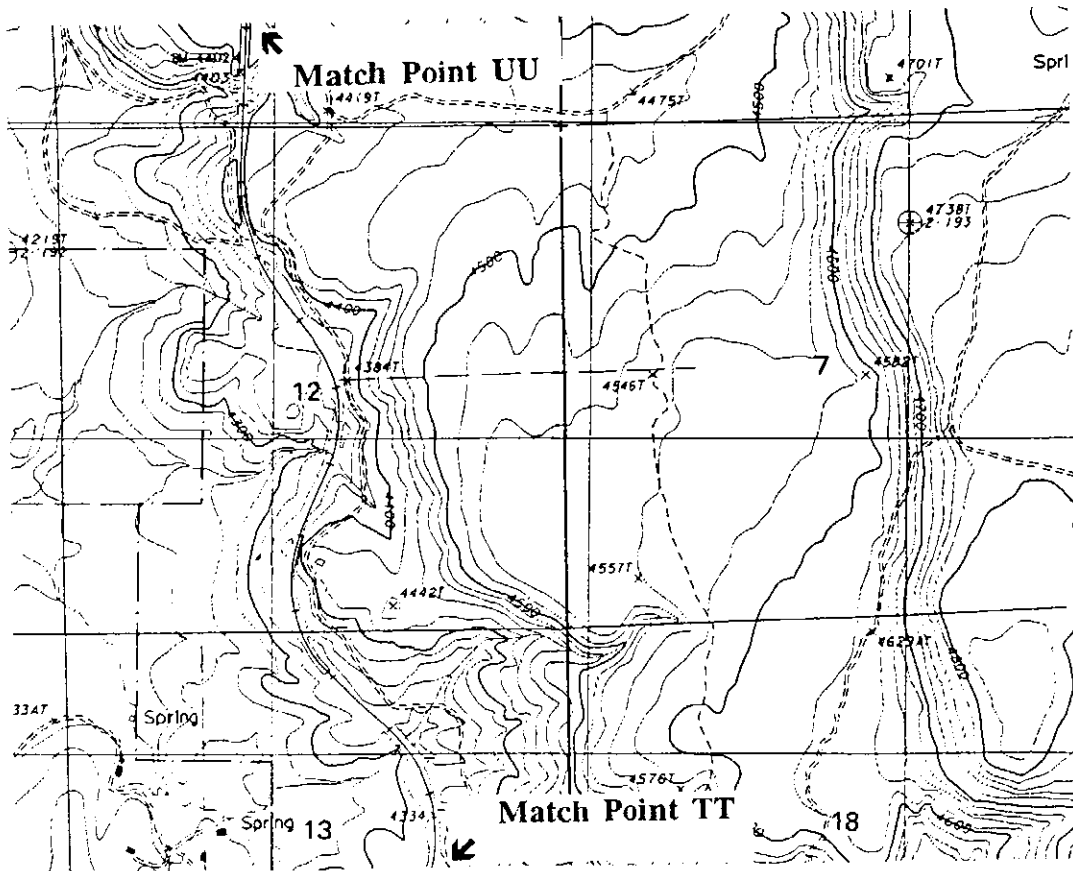
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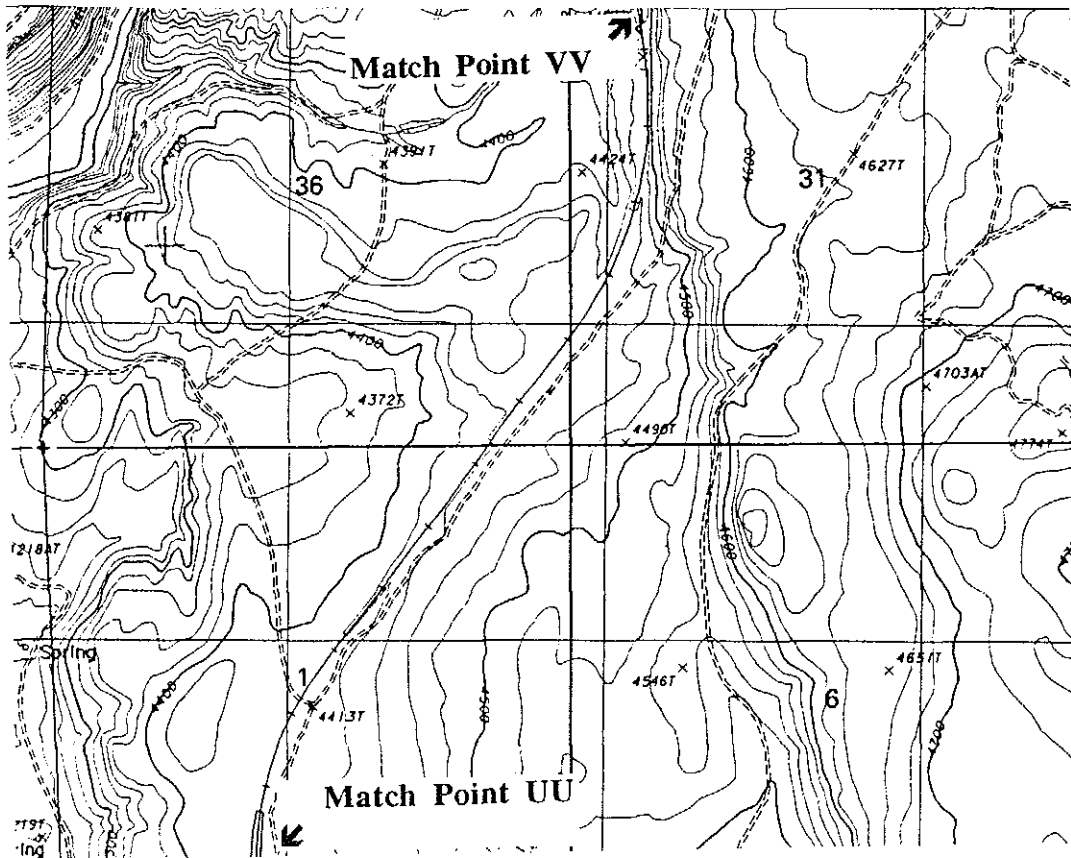
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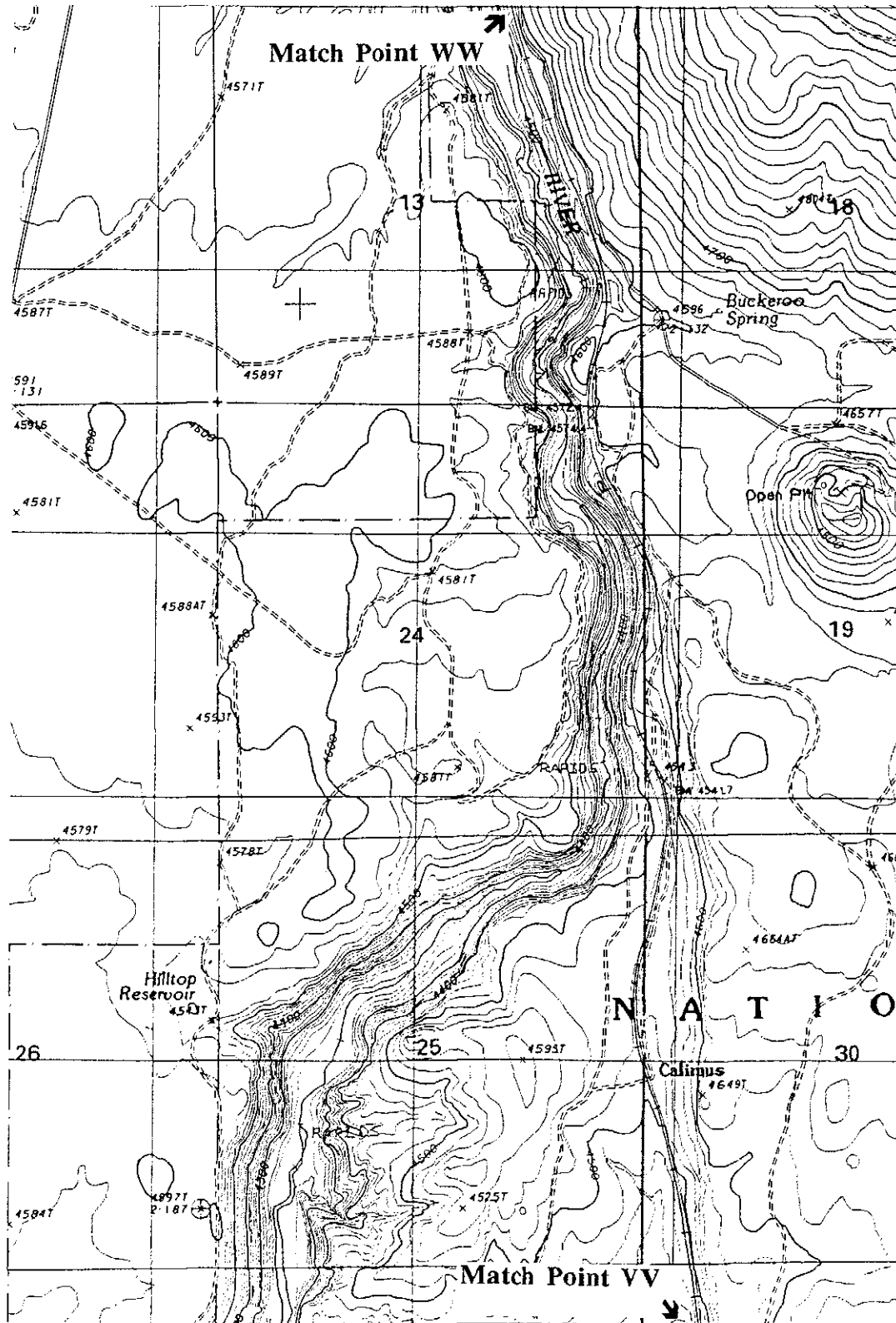
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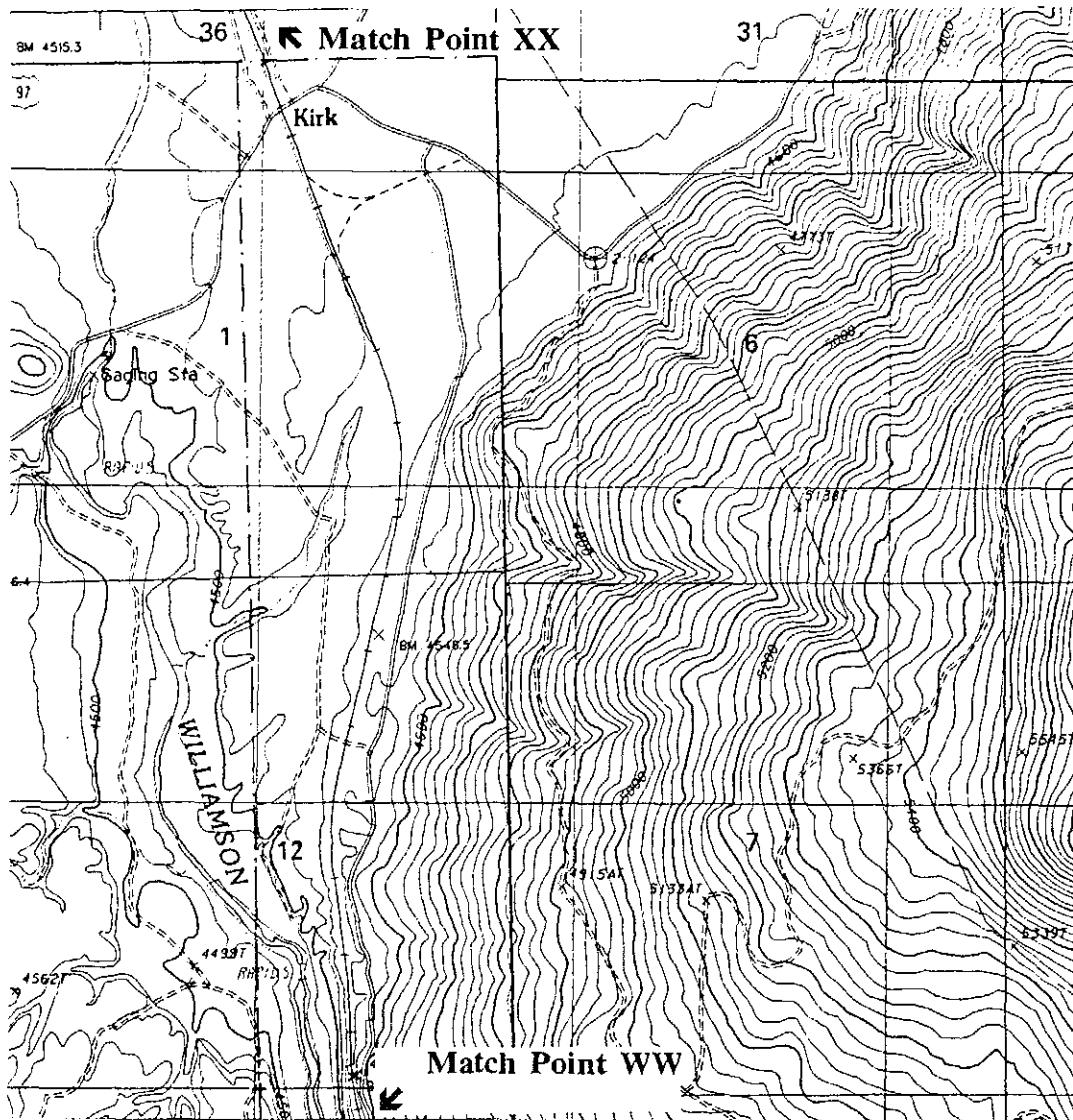
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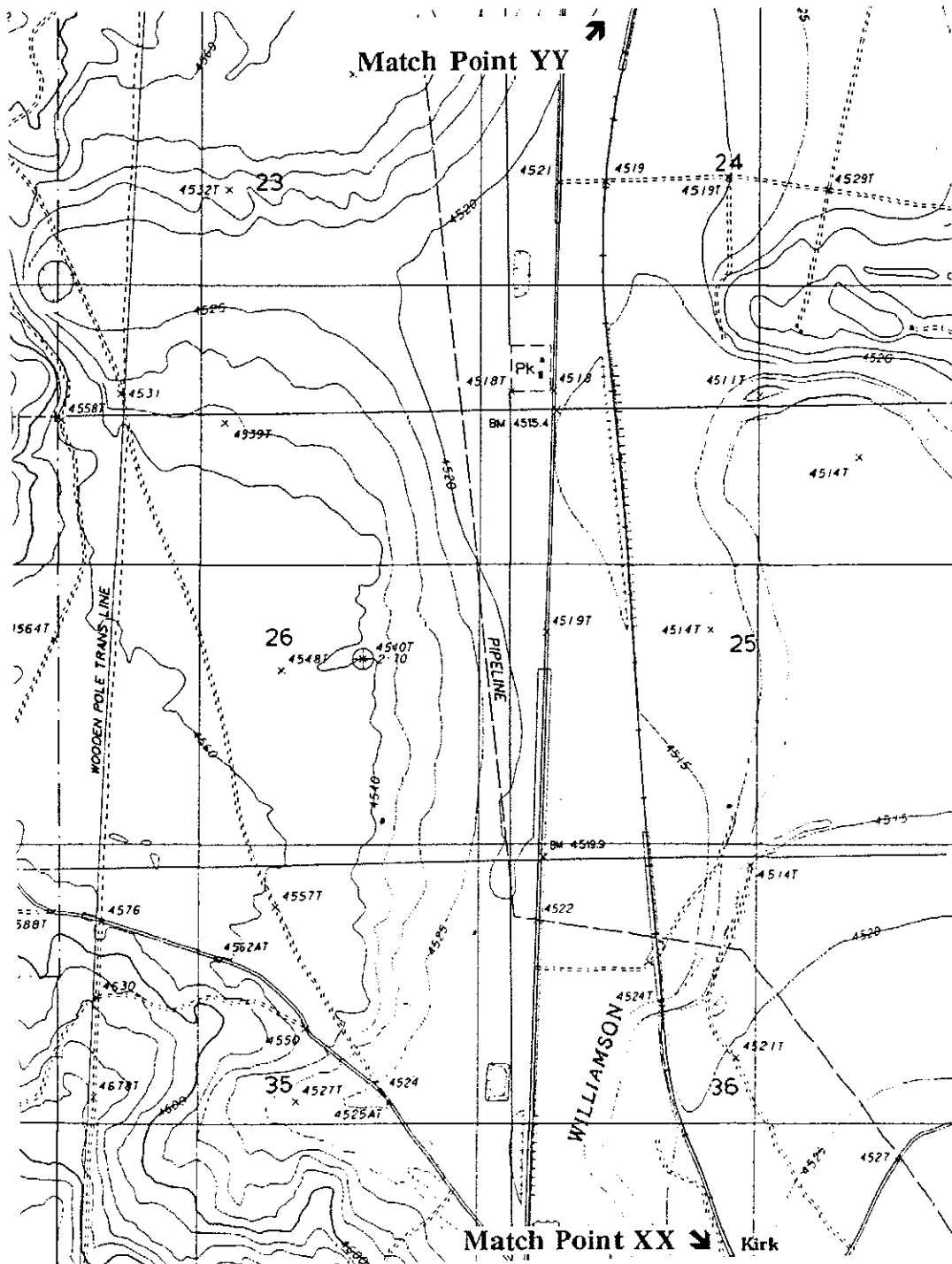
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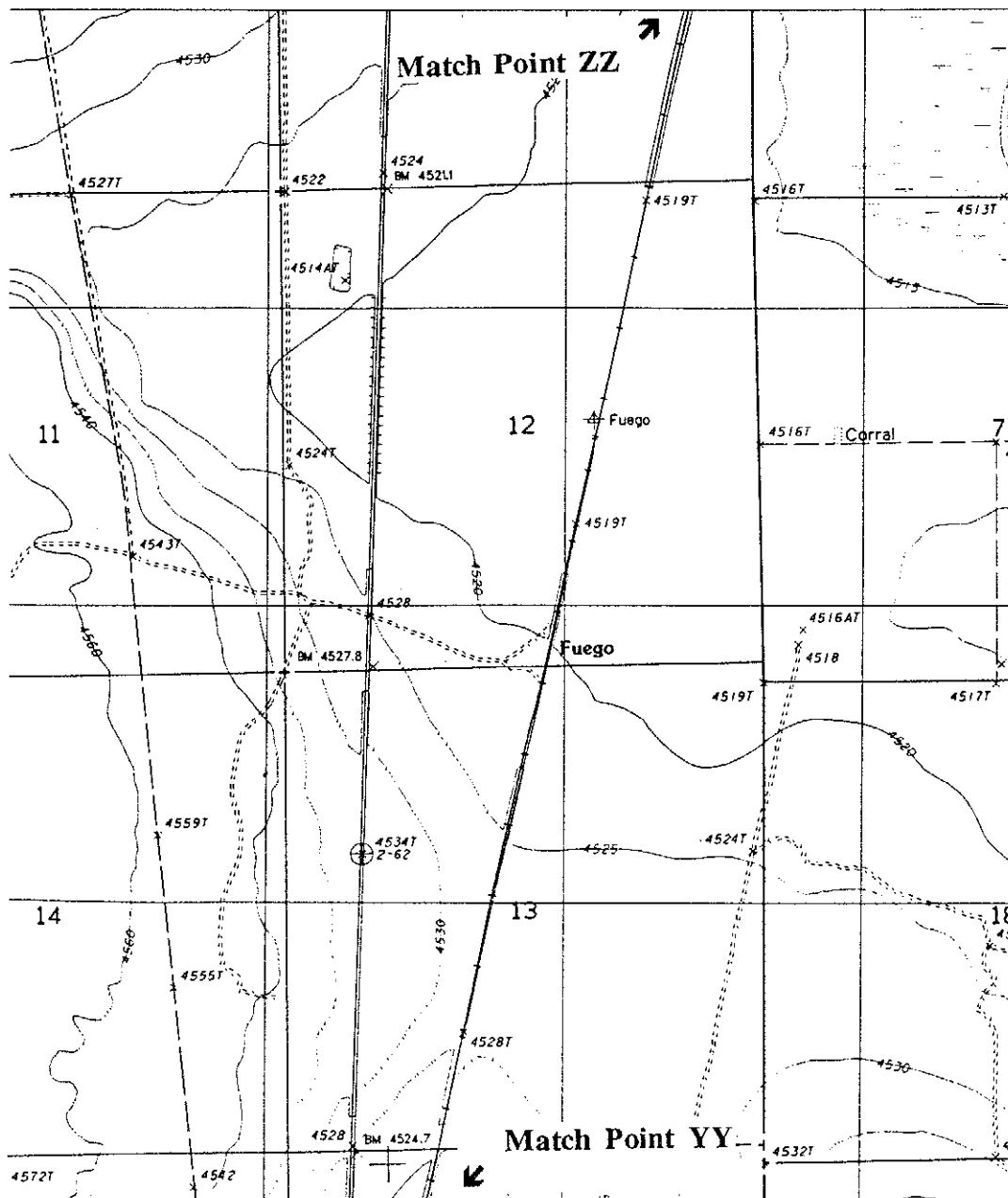
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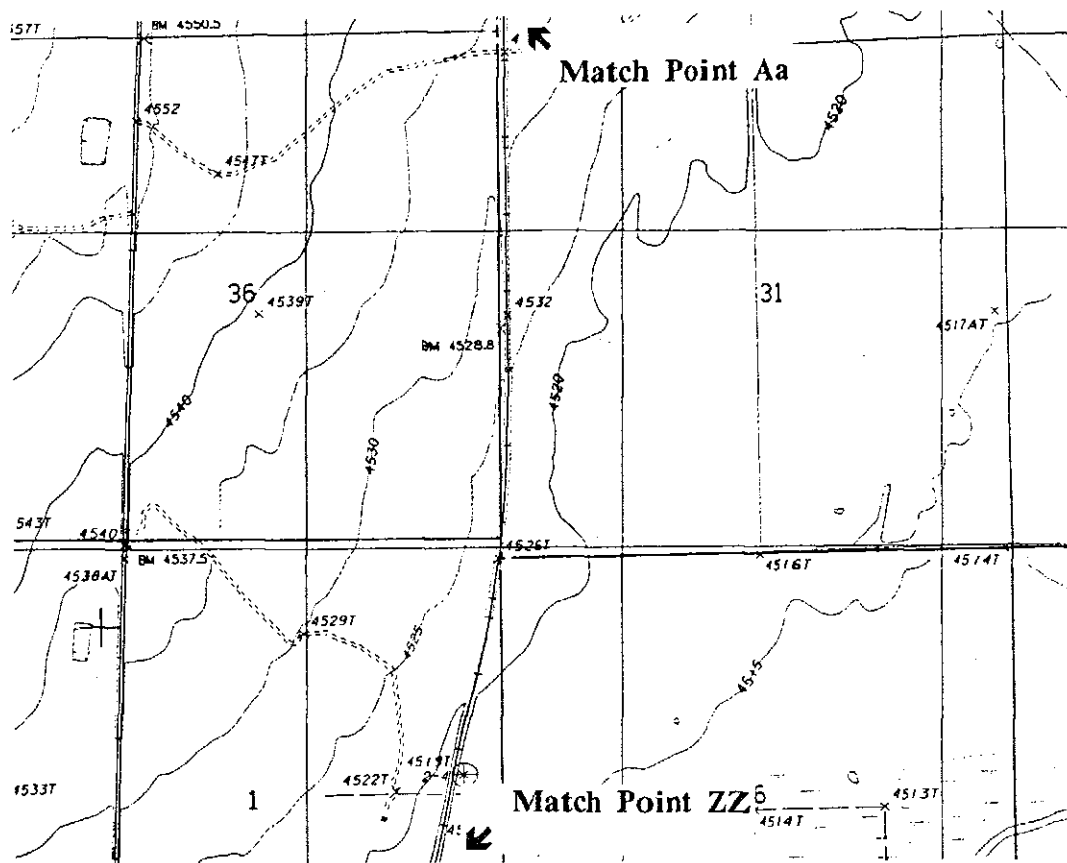
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Match Point Bb

Match Point Aa

Chinchalo

Corral

37

SERT

24

19

25

30

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4541T 5-237

4548T

4536T

4529T 5-238

4529T

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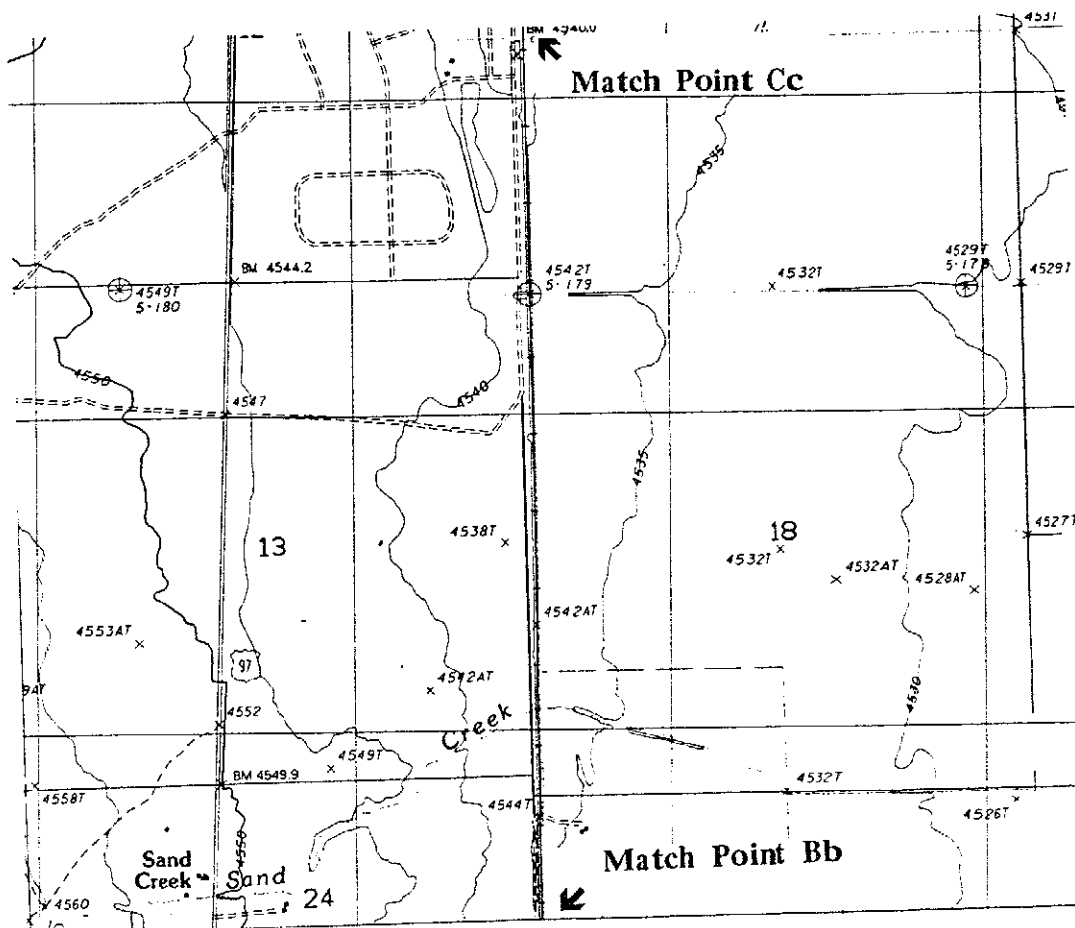
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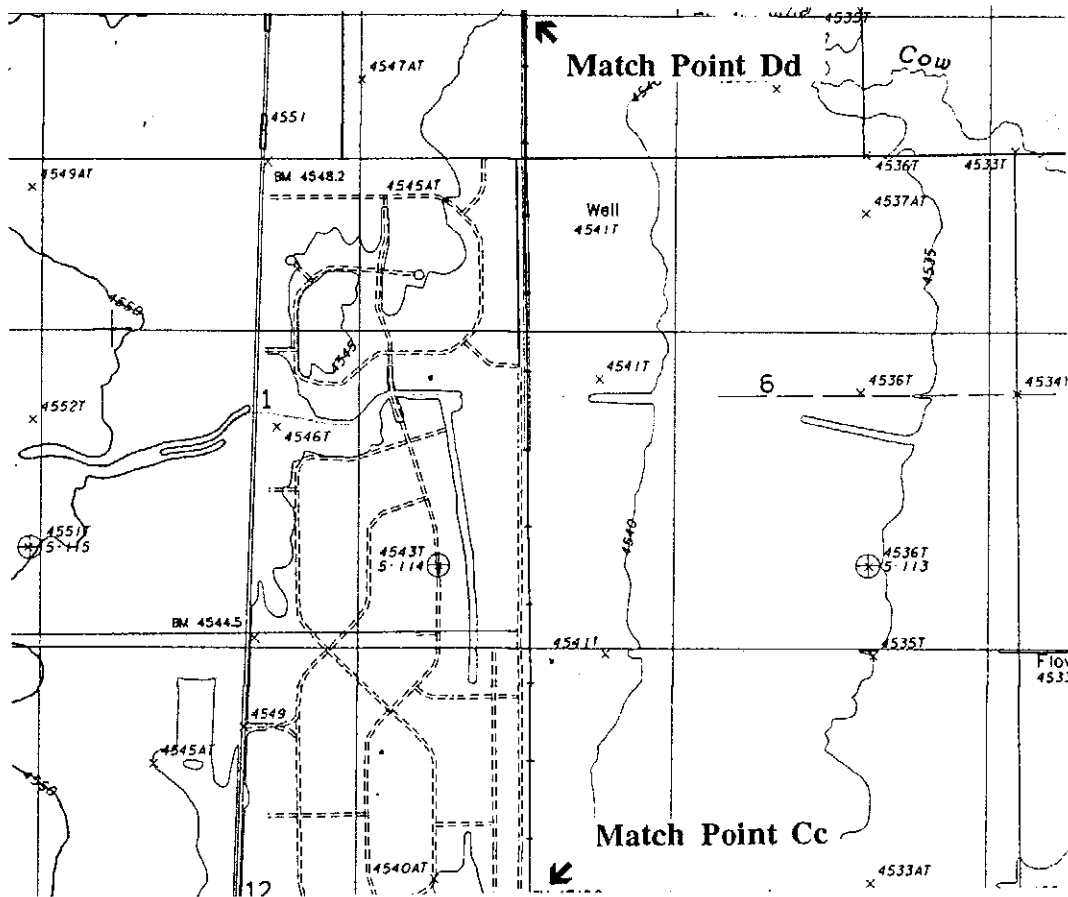
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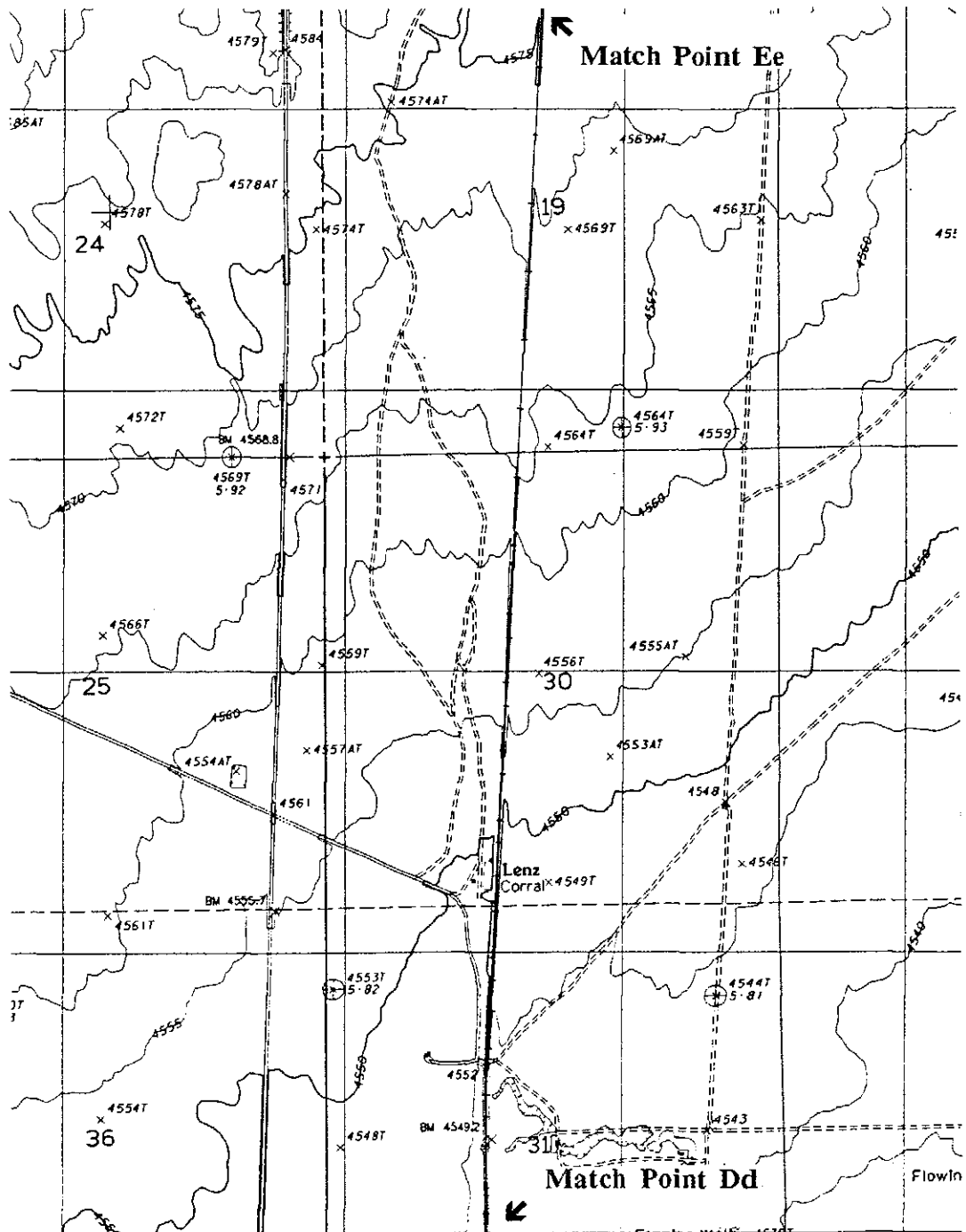
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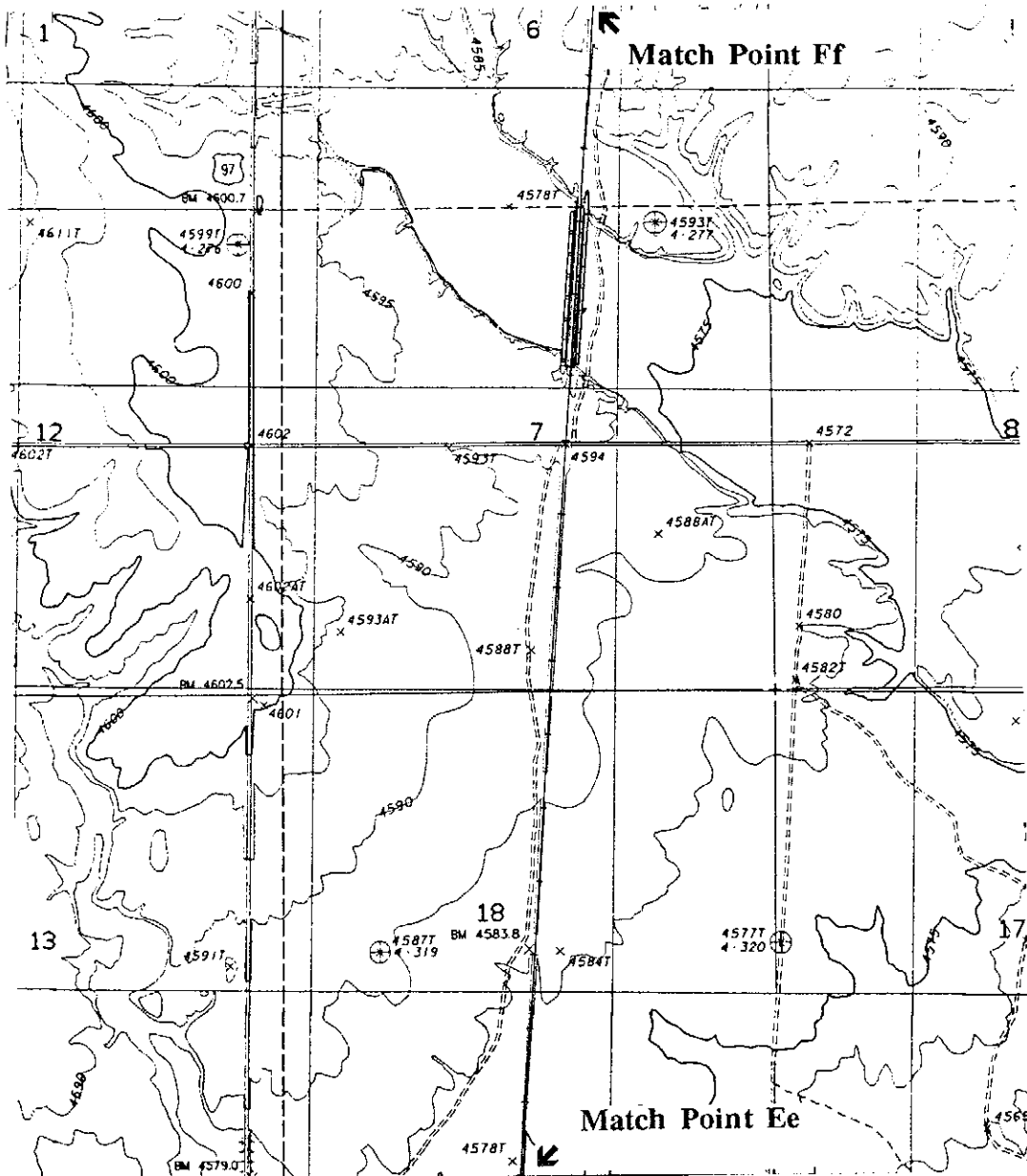
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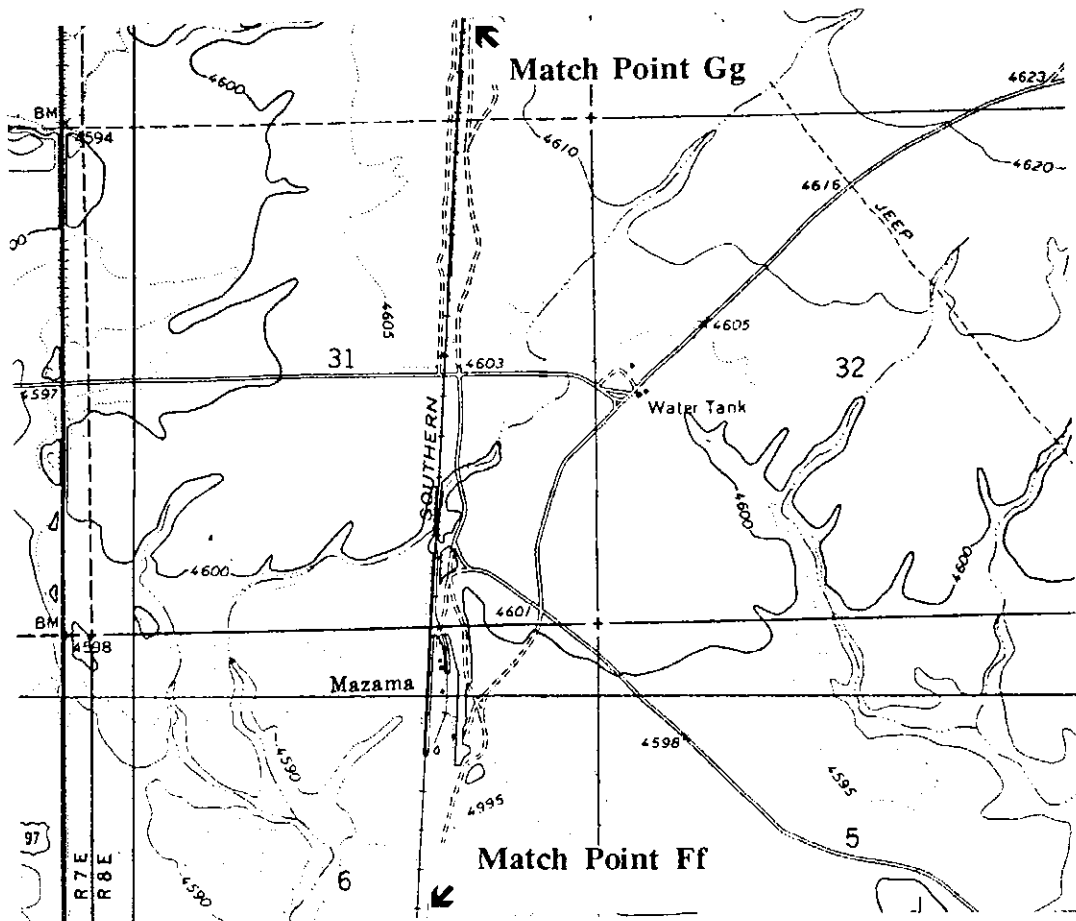
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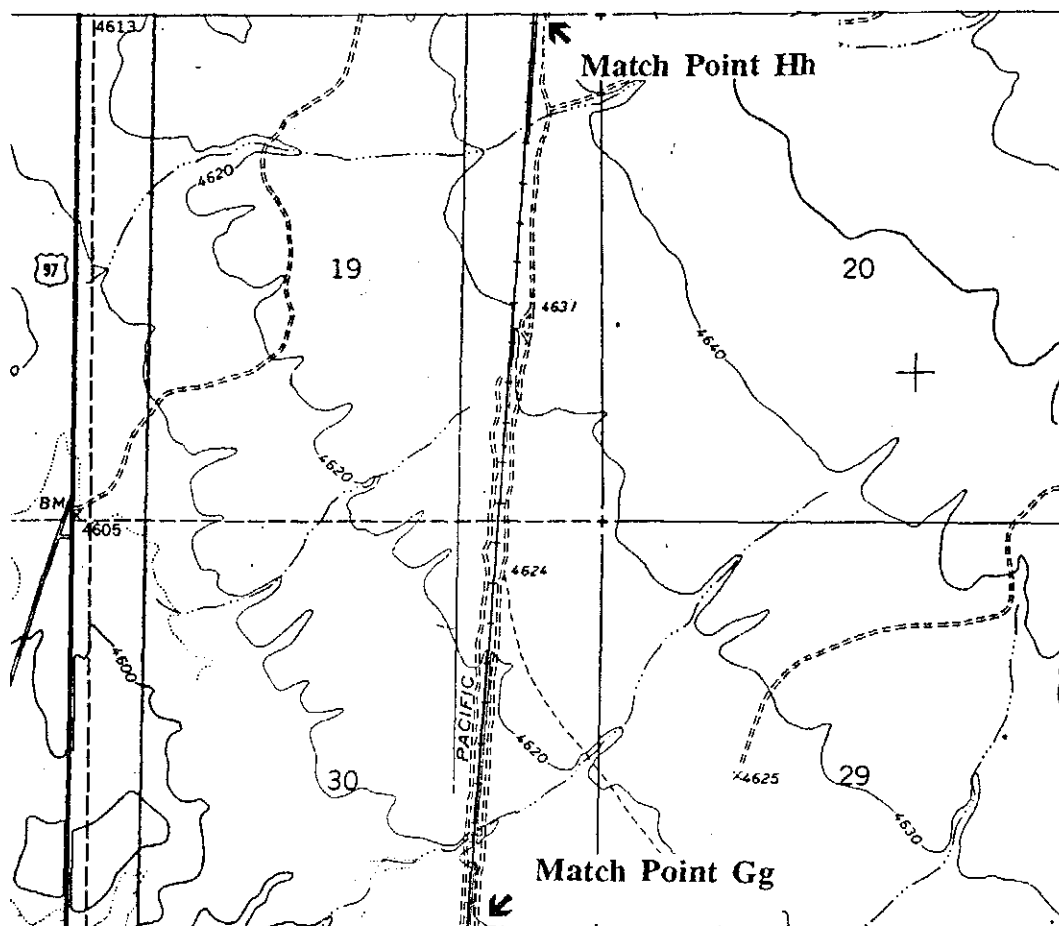
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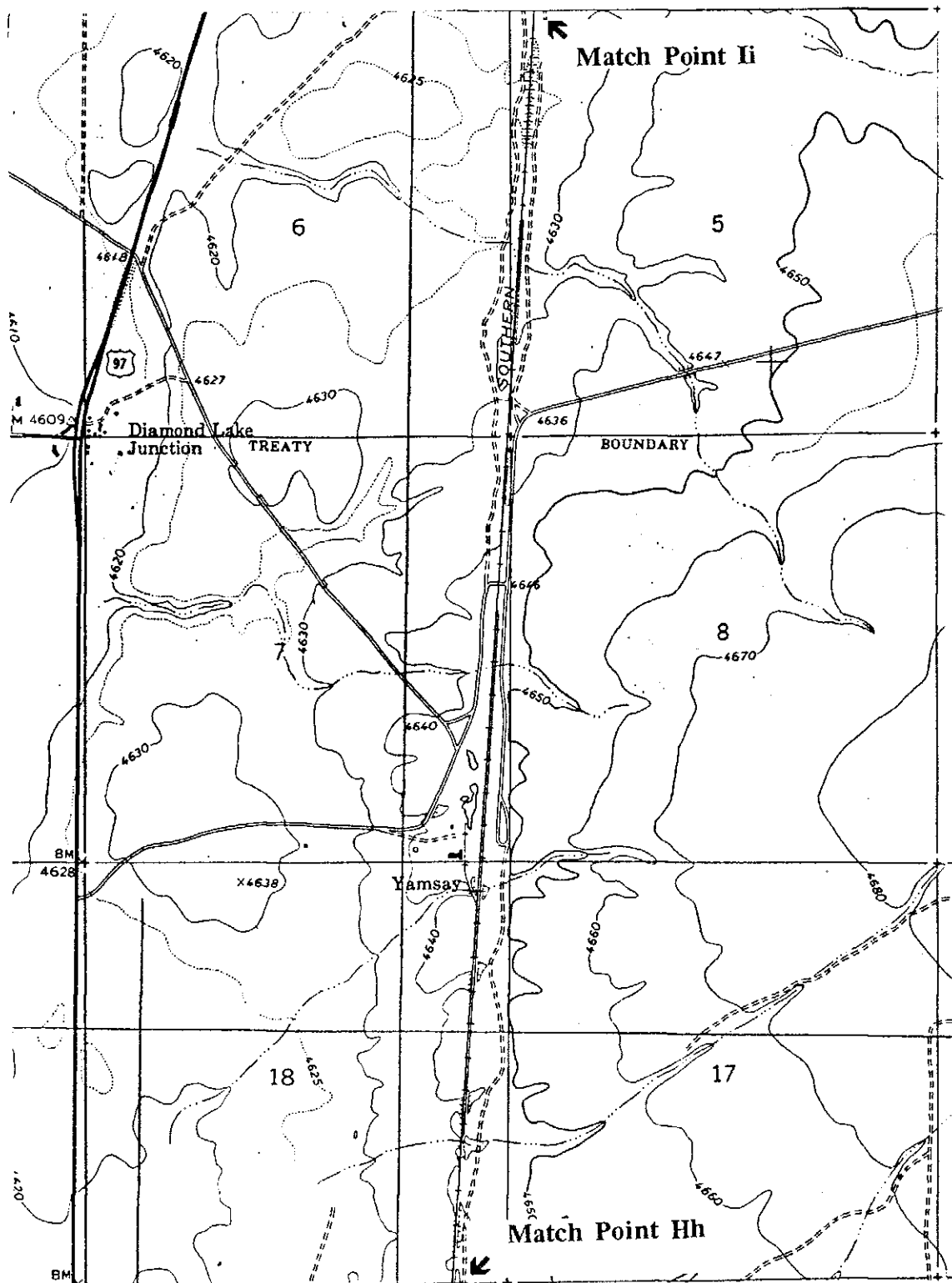
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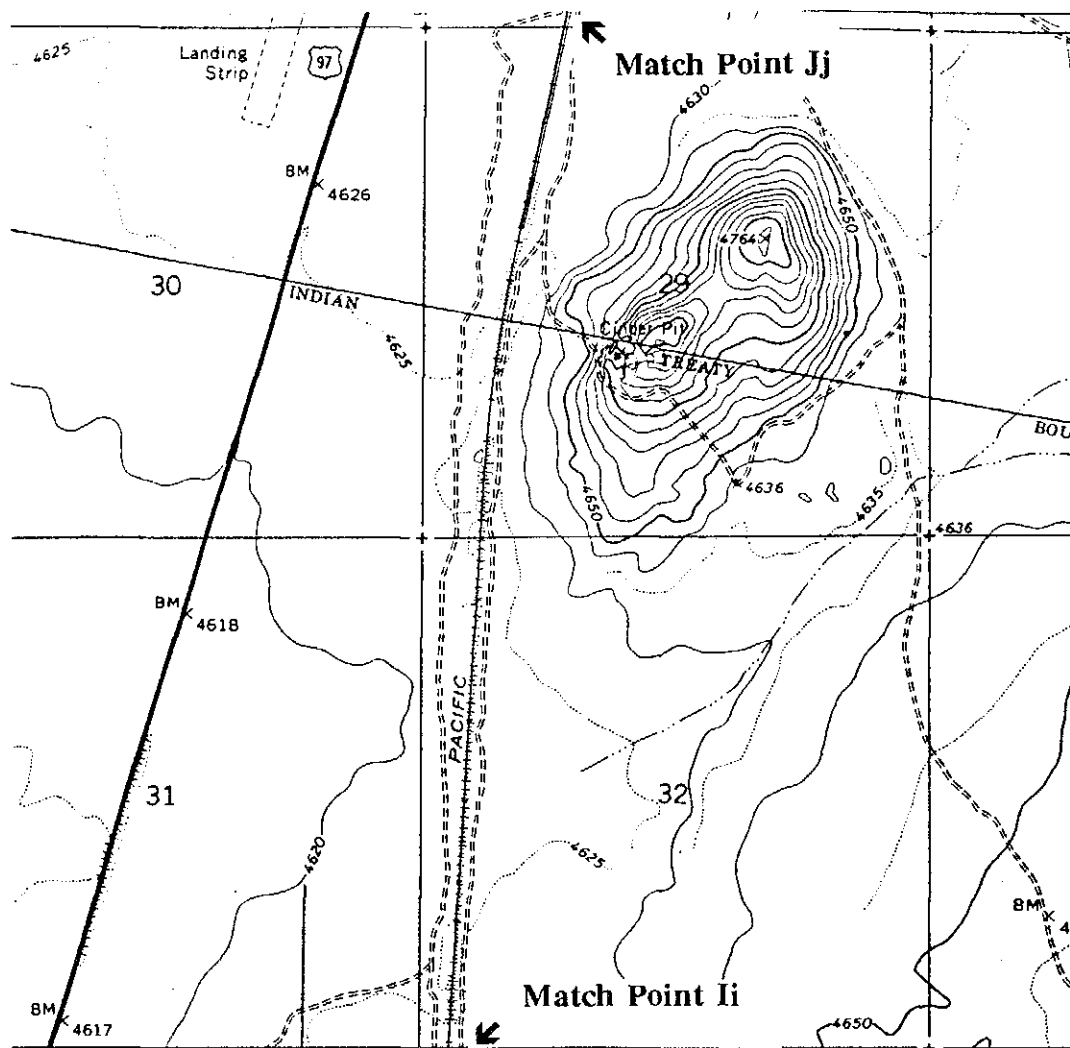
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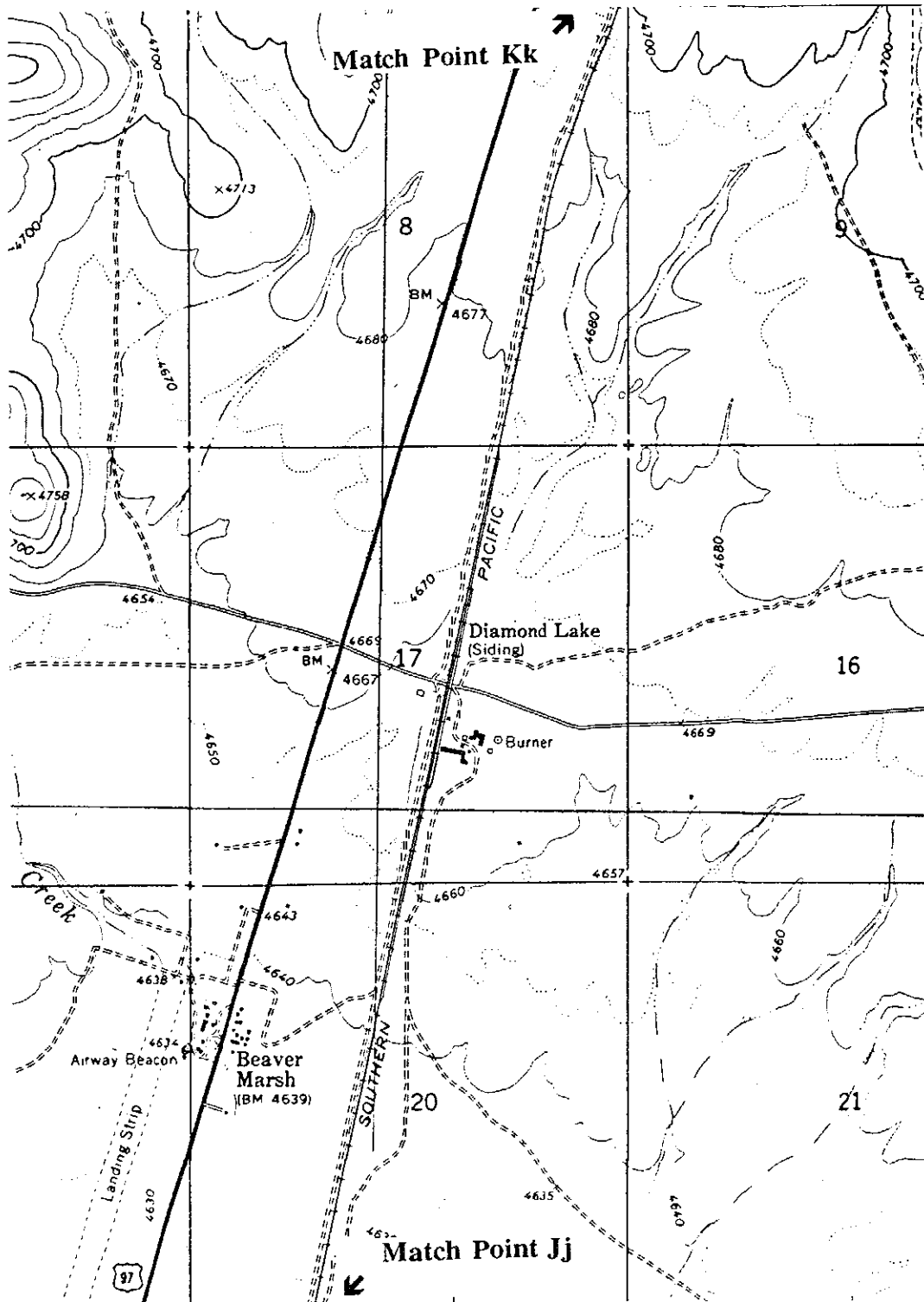
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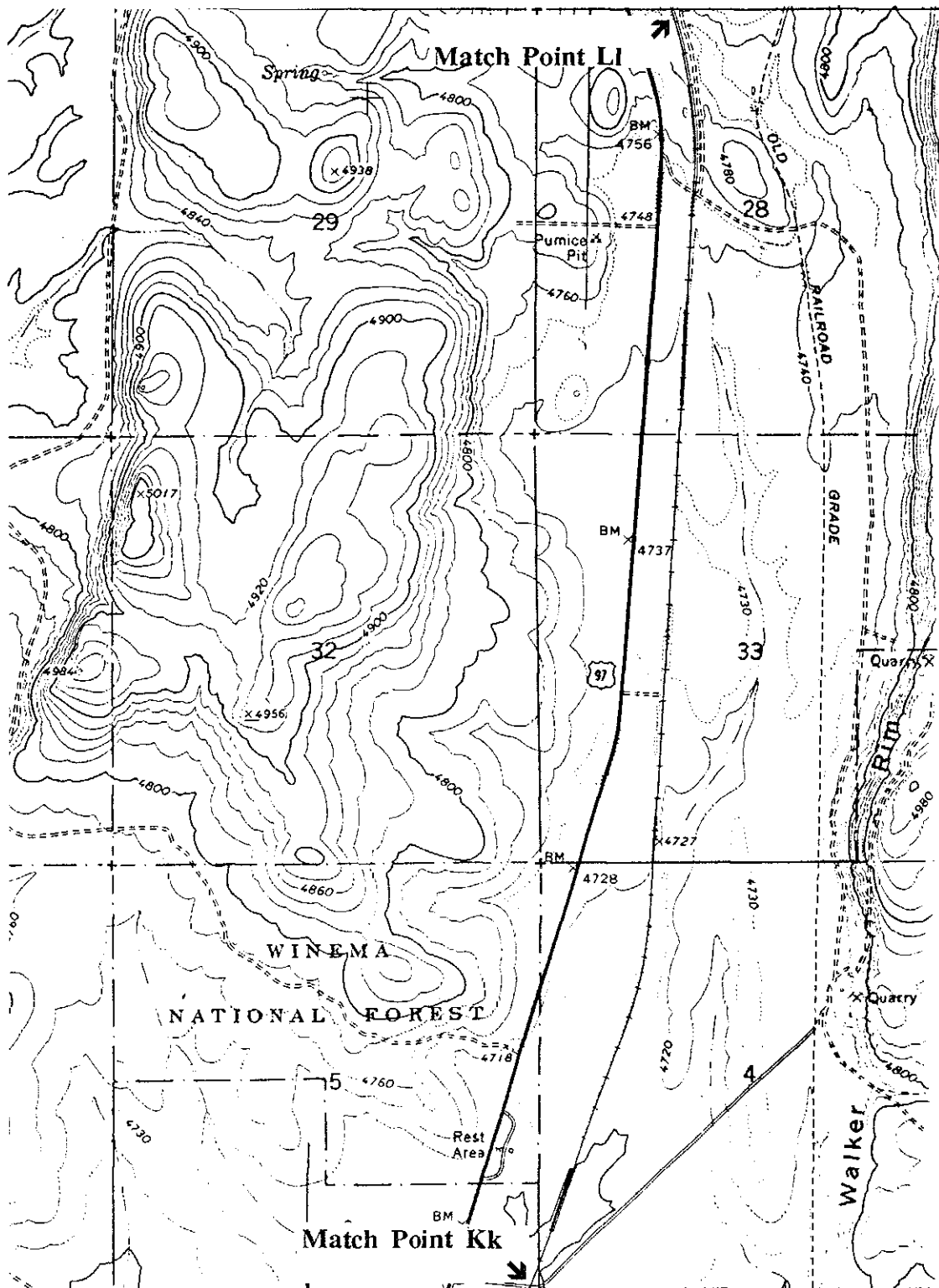
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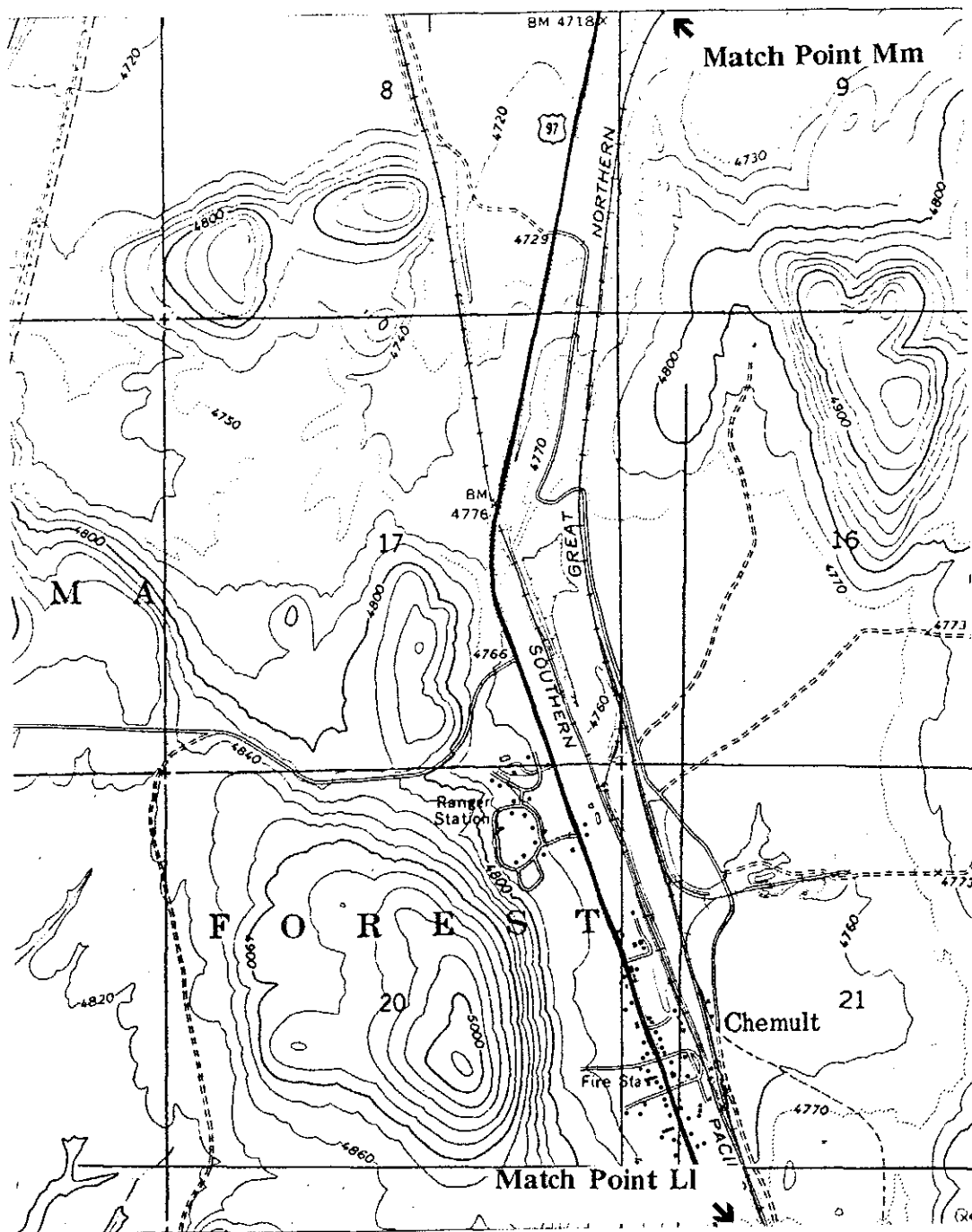
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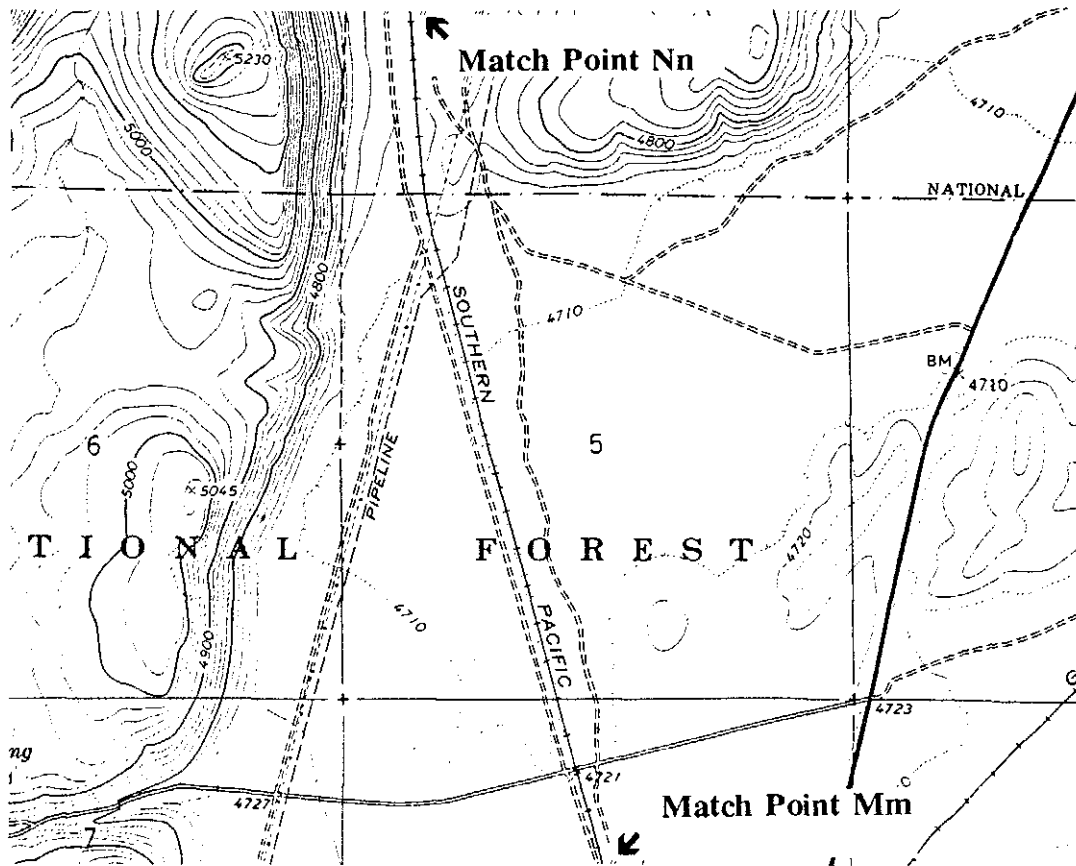
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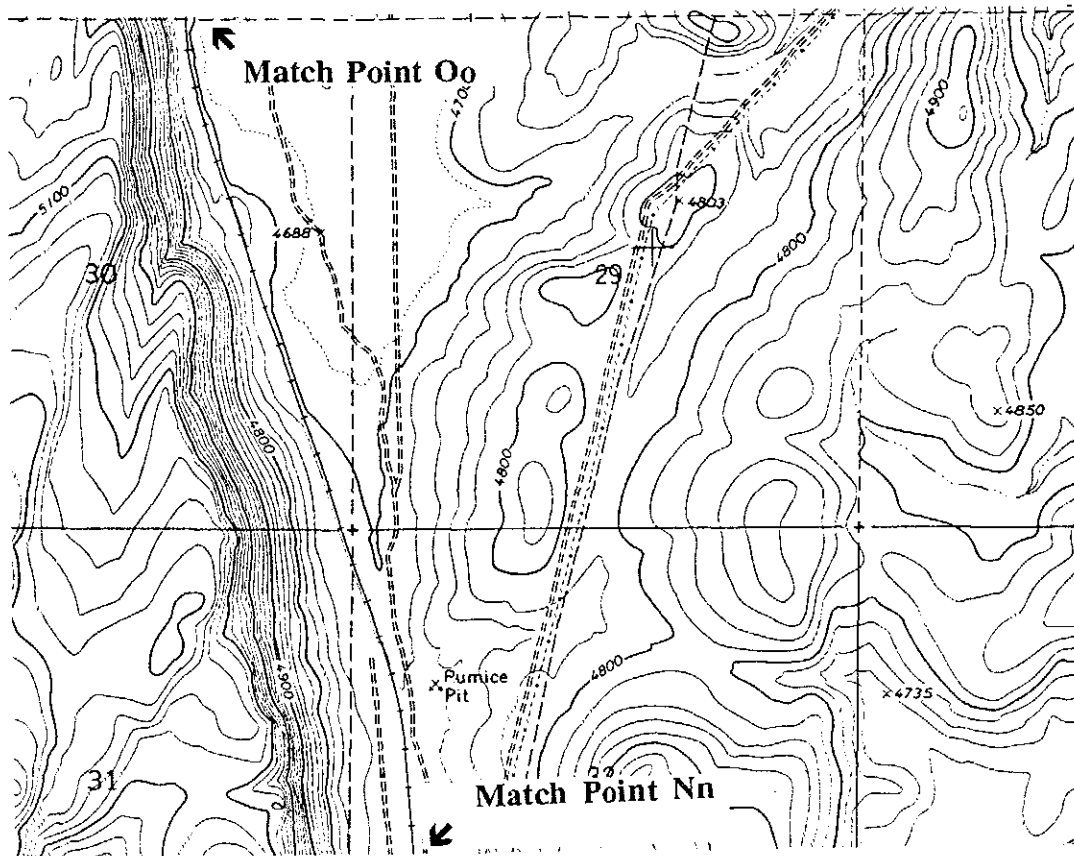
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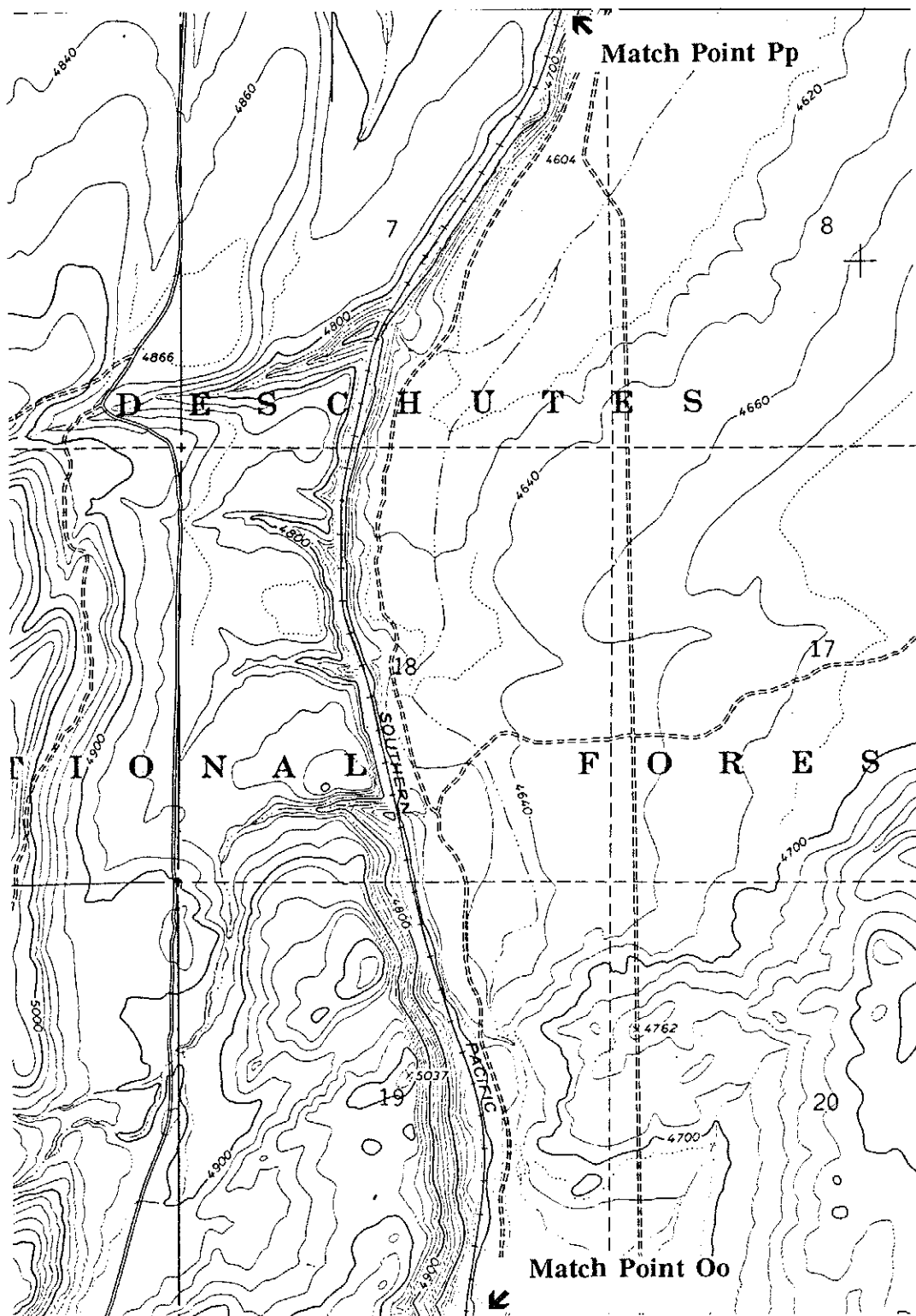
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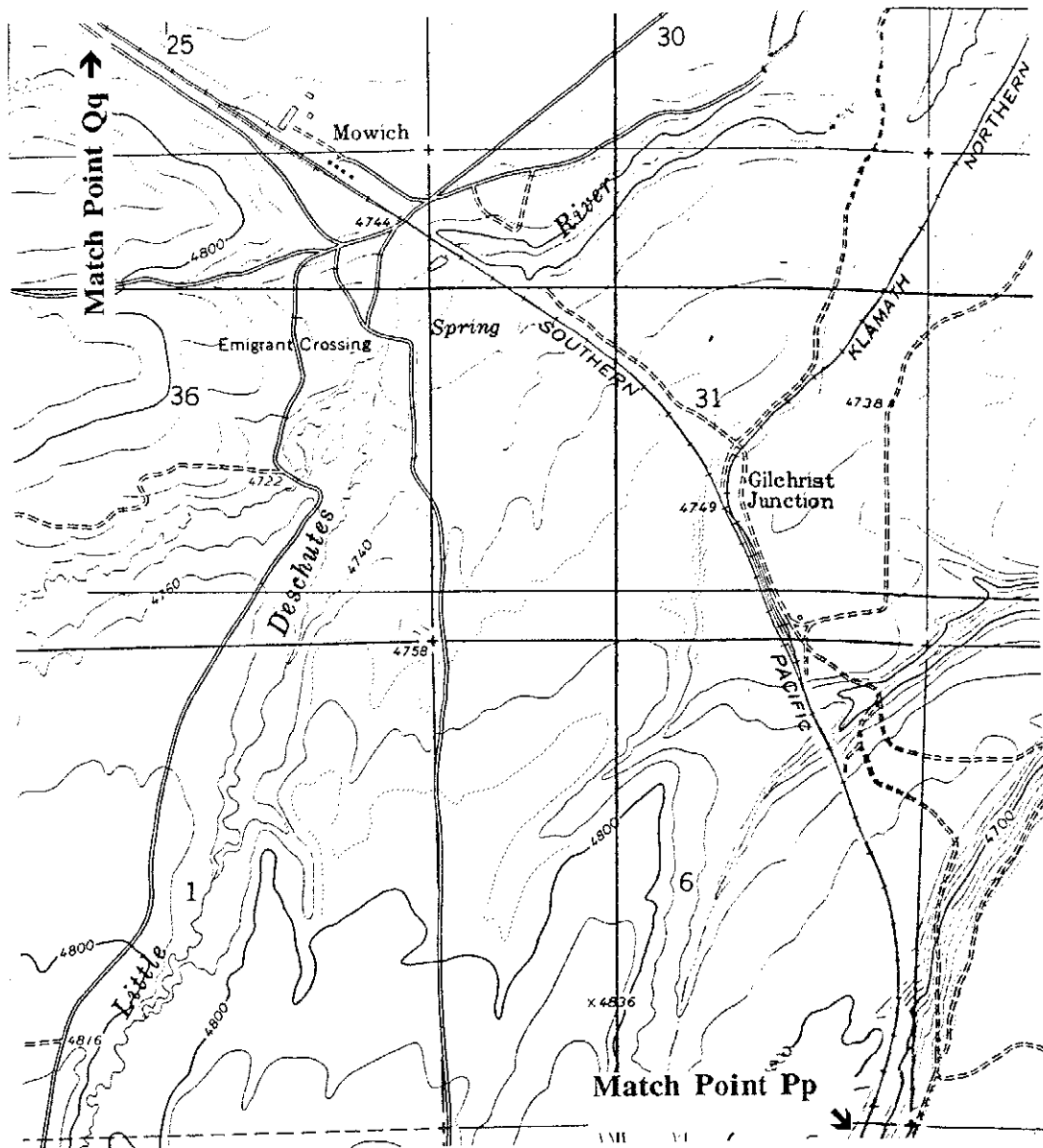
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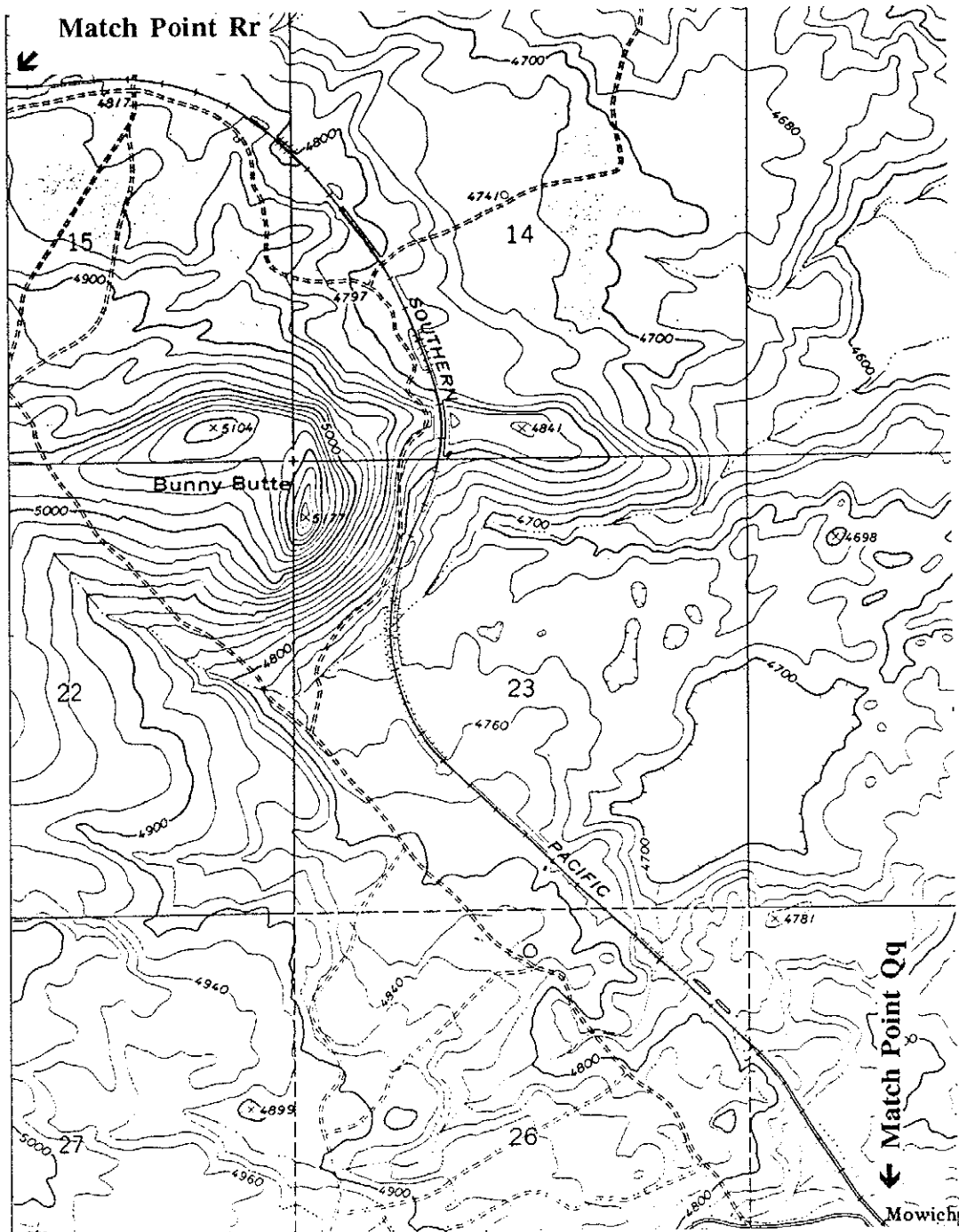
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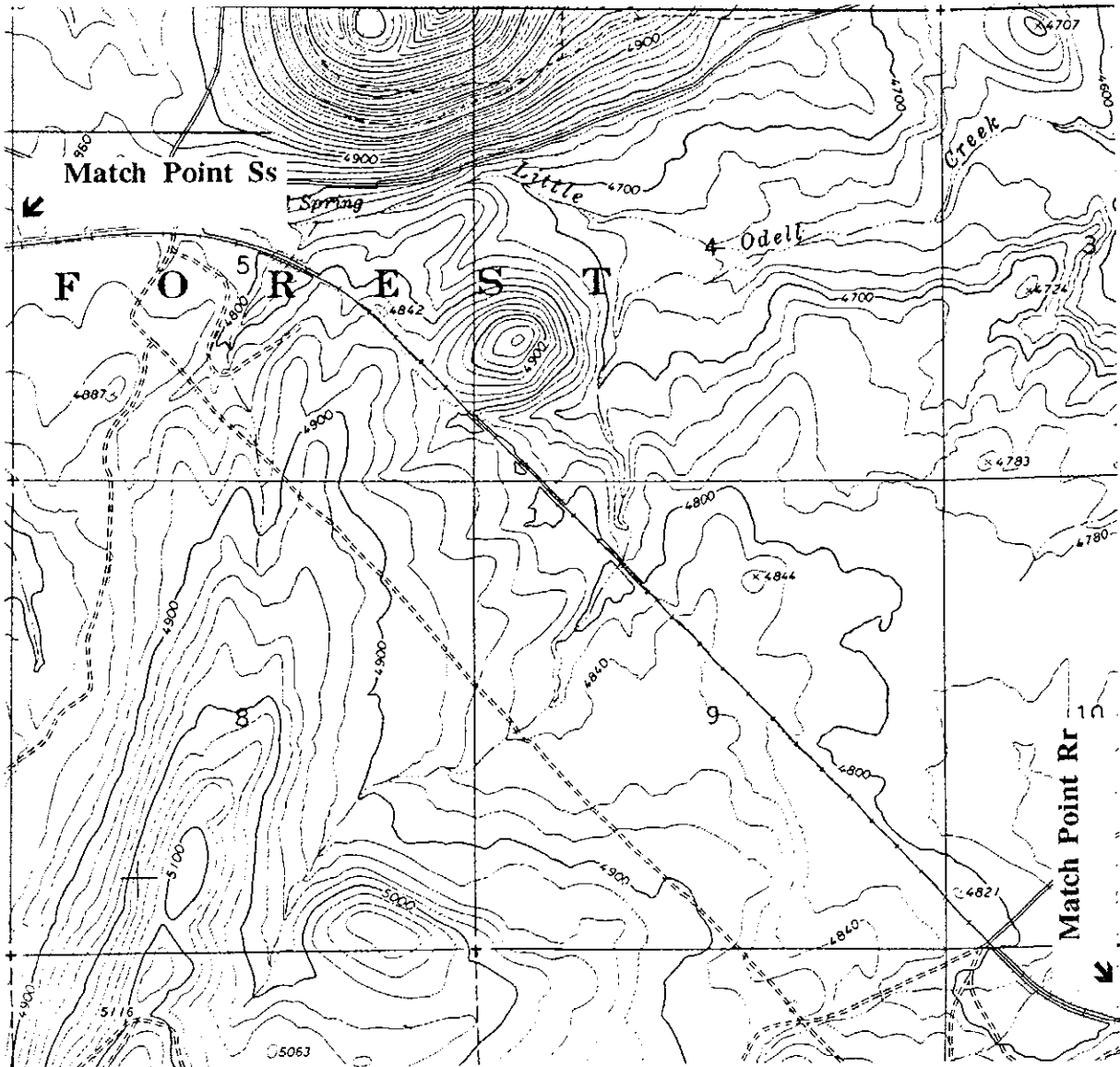
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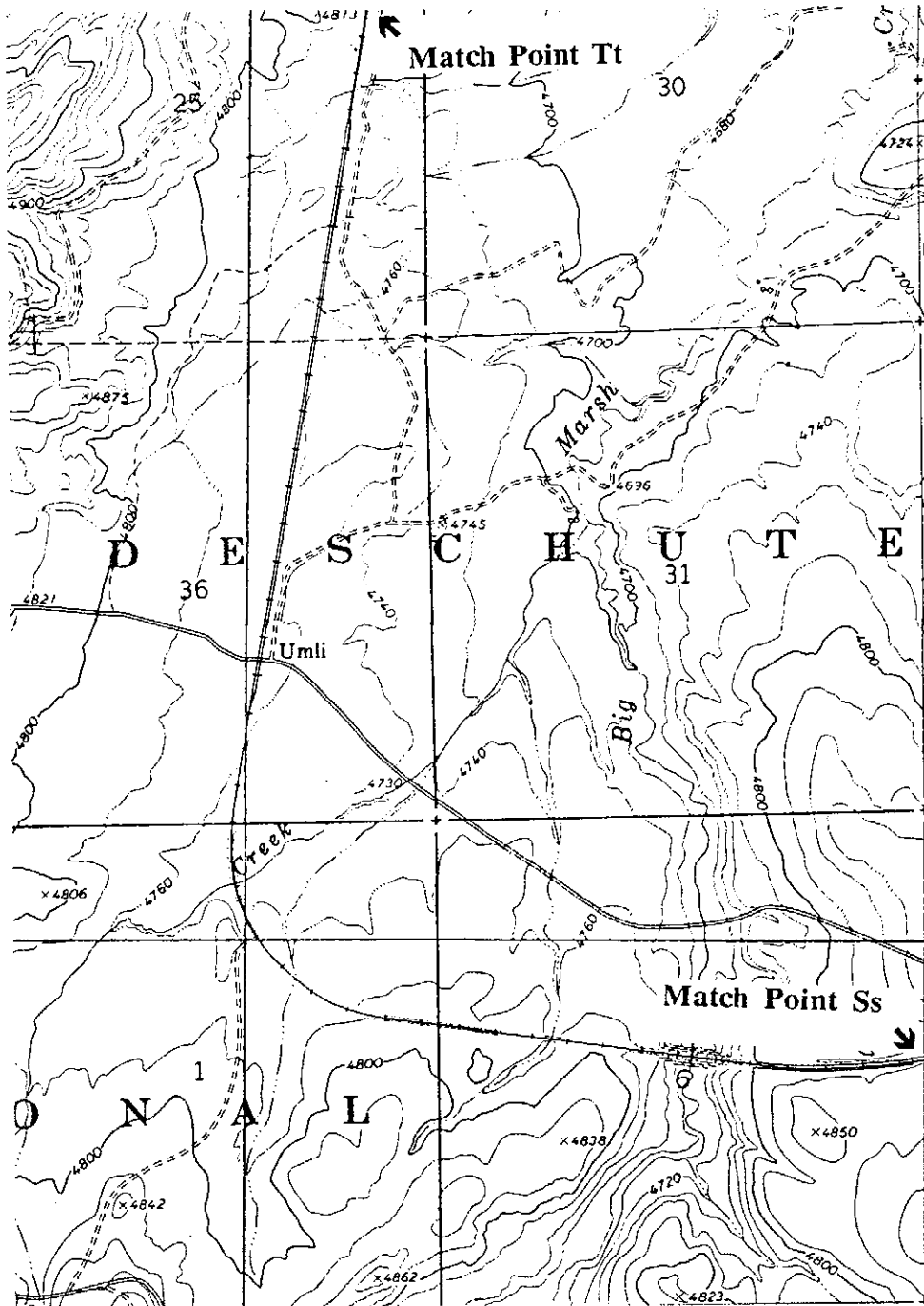
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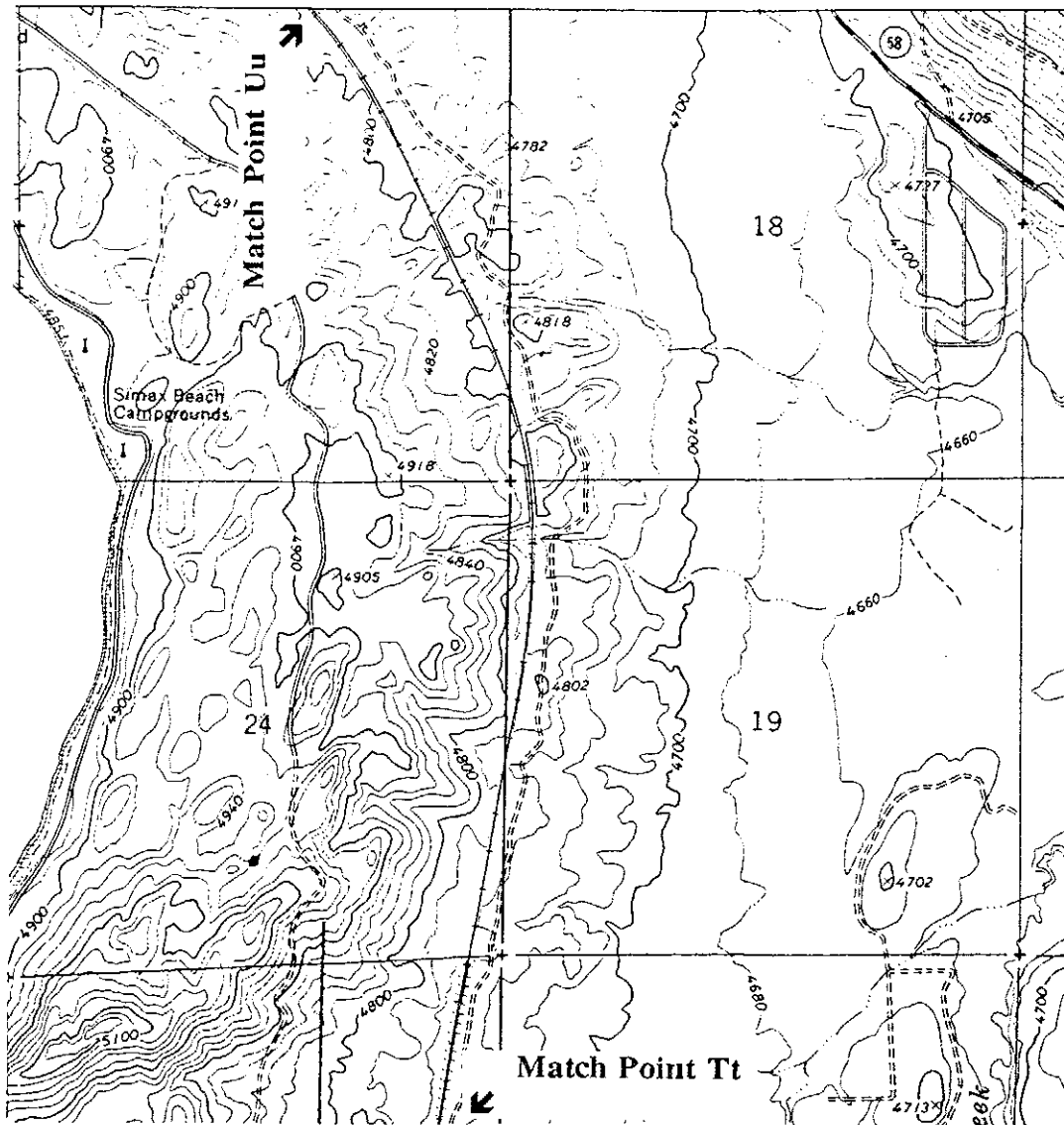
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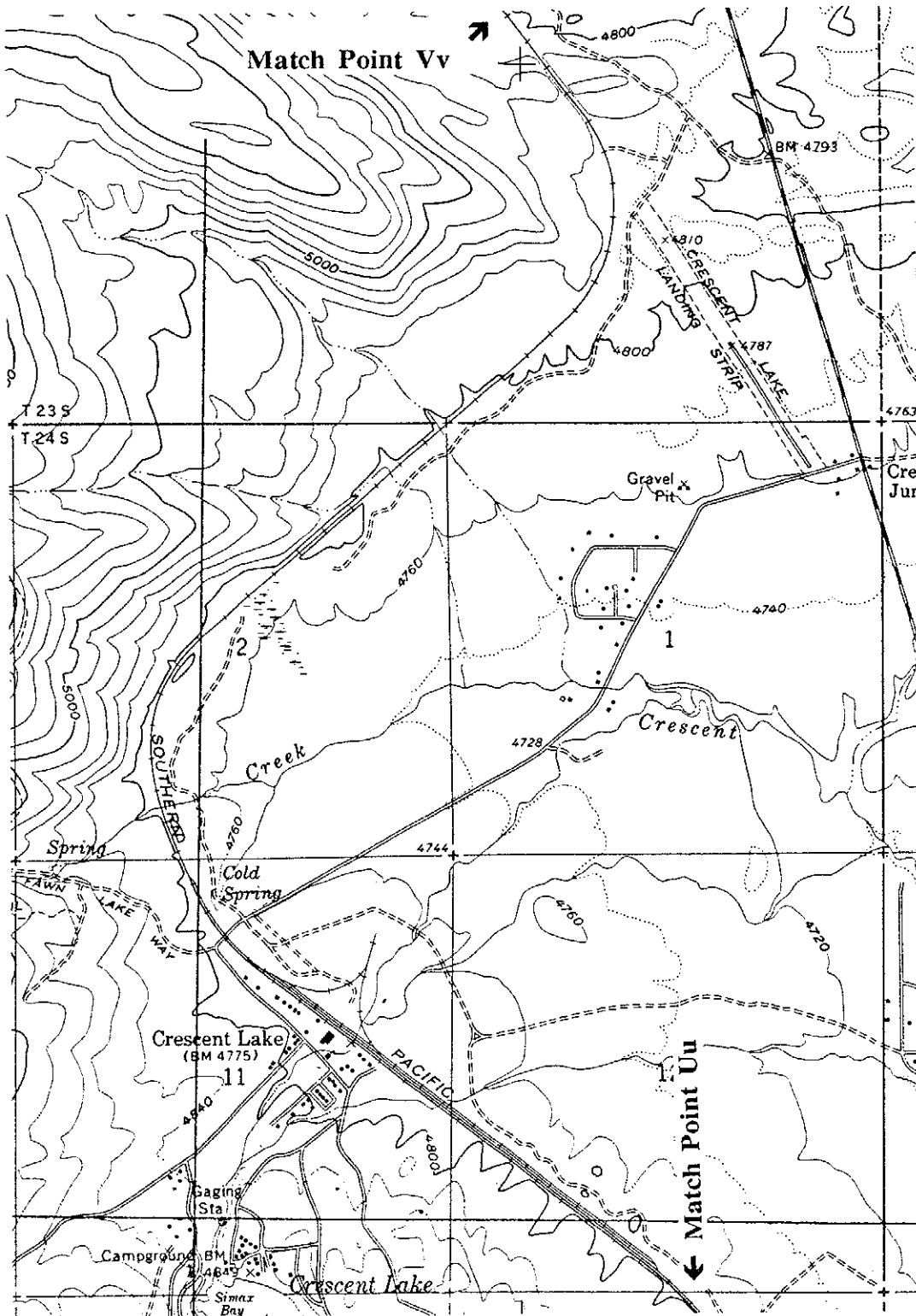
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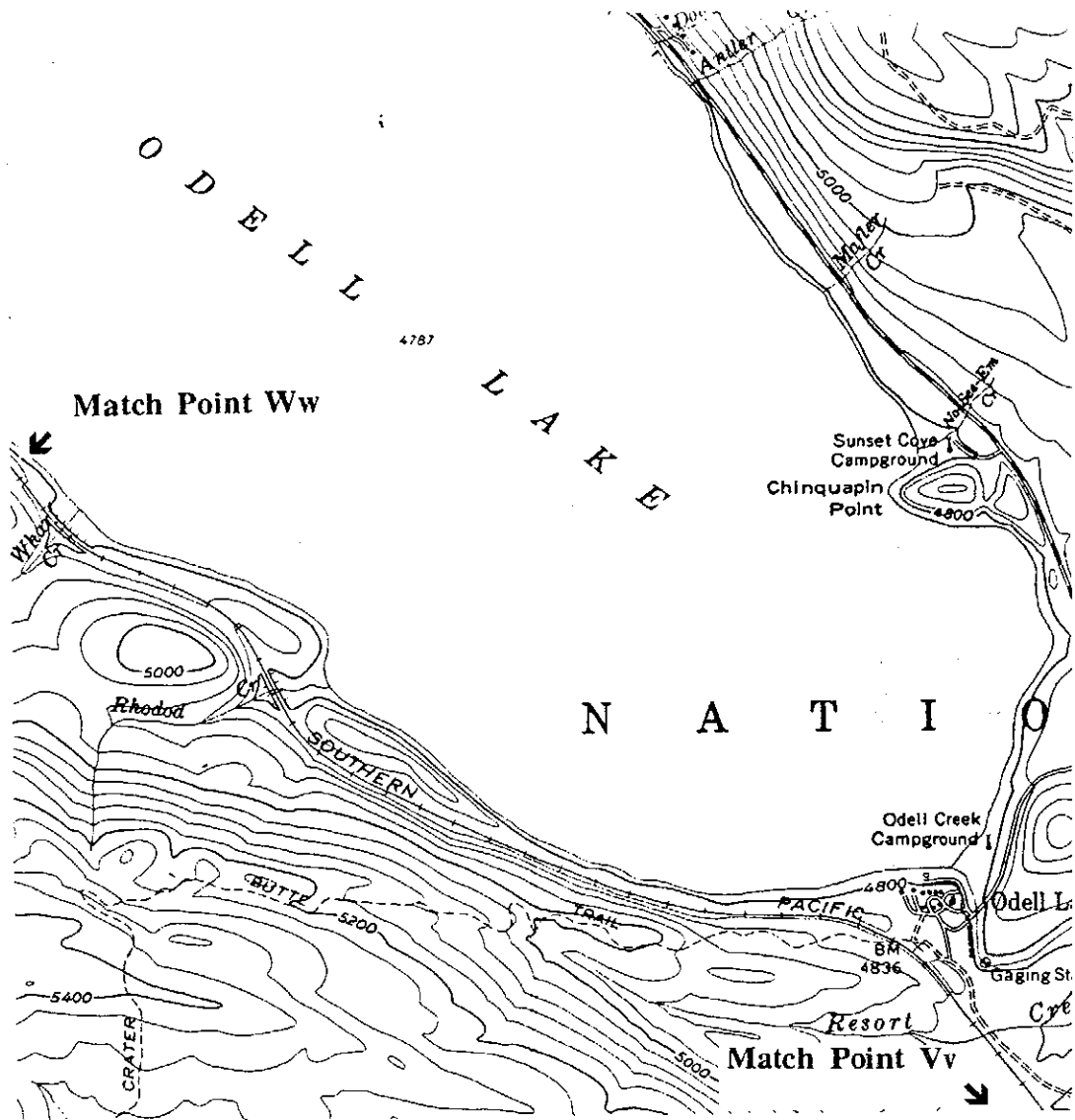
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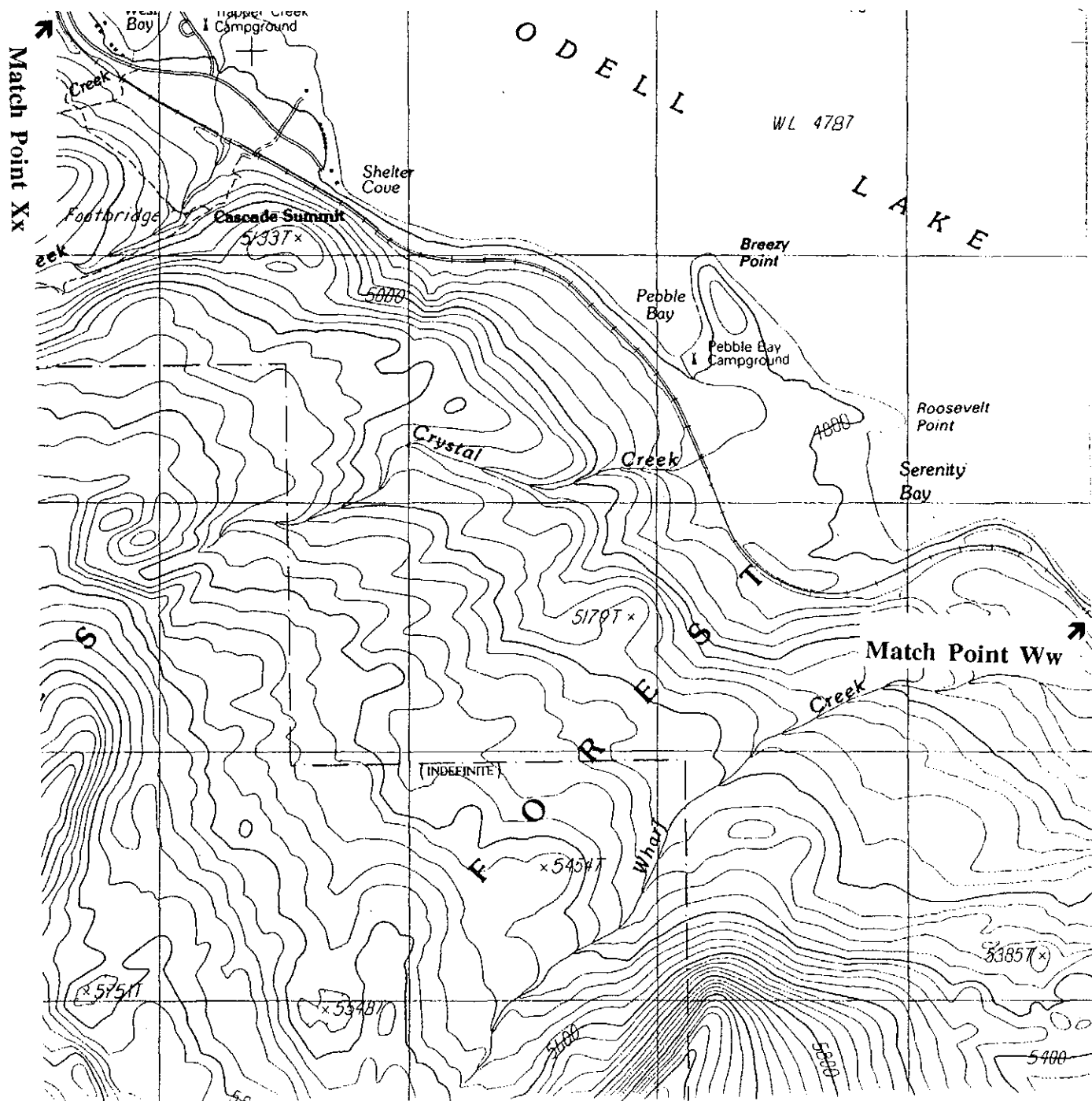
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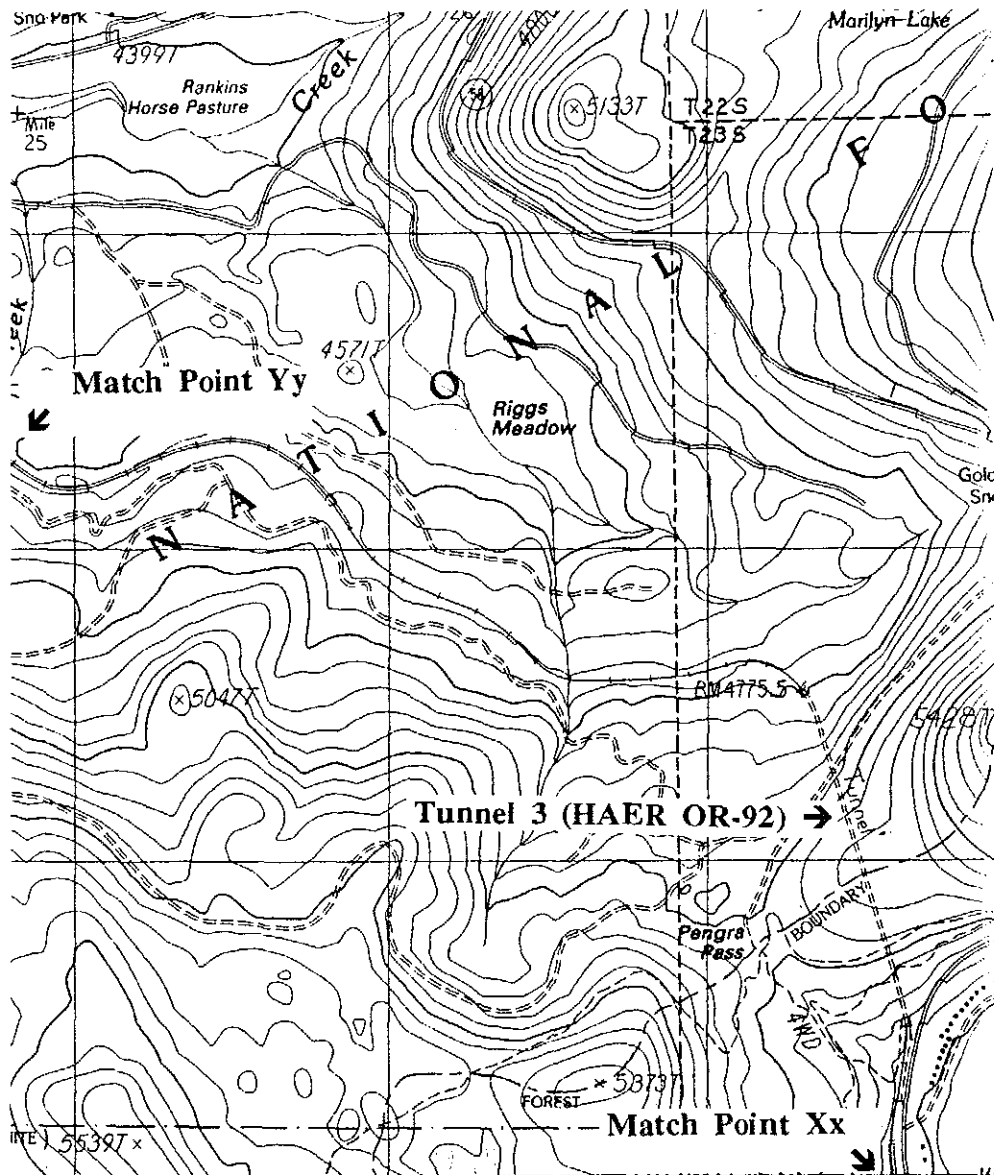
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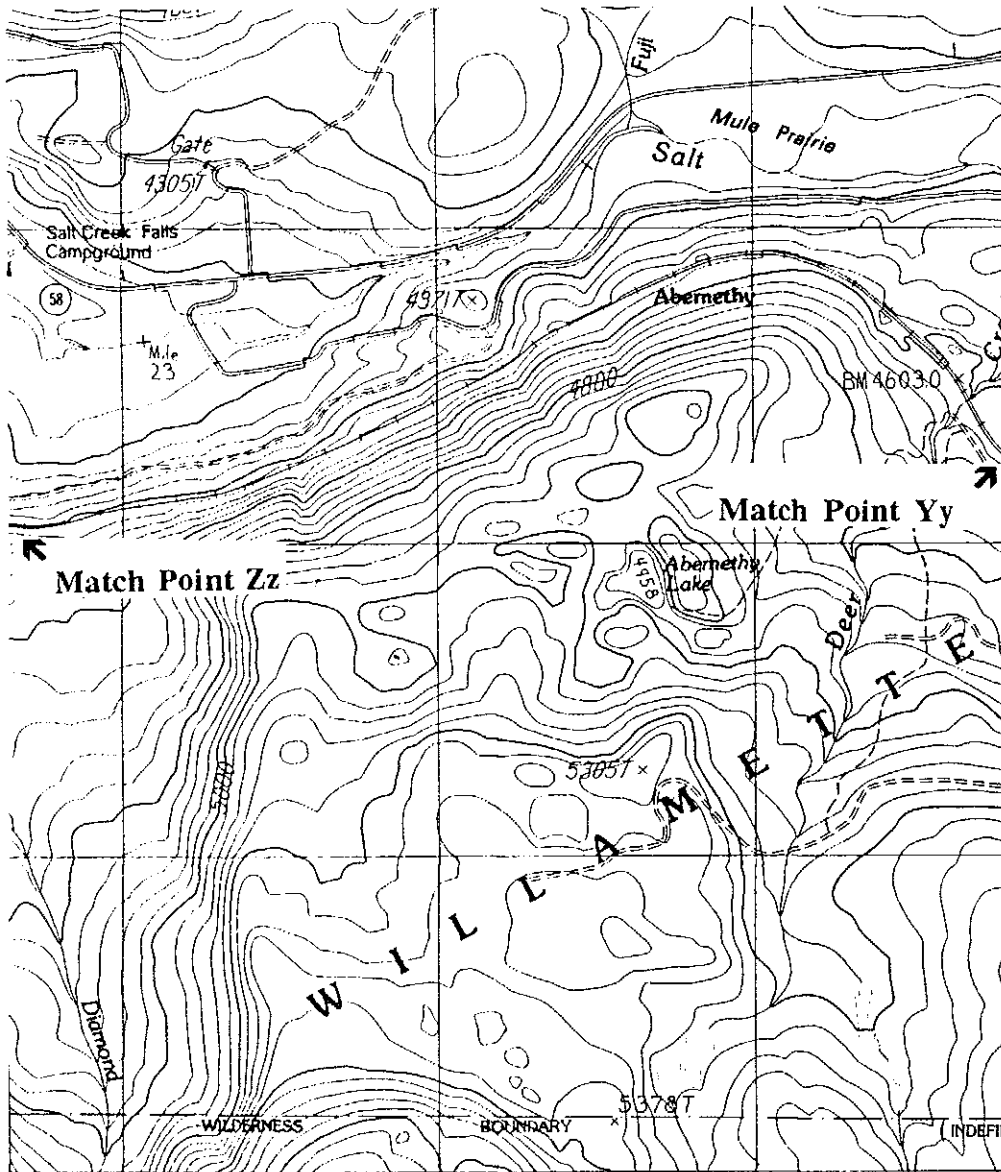
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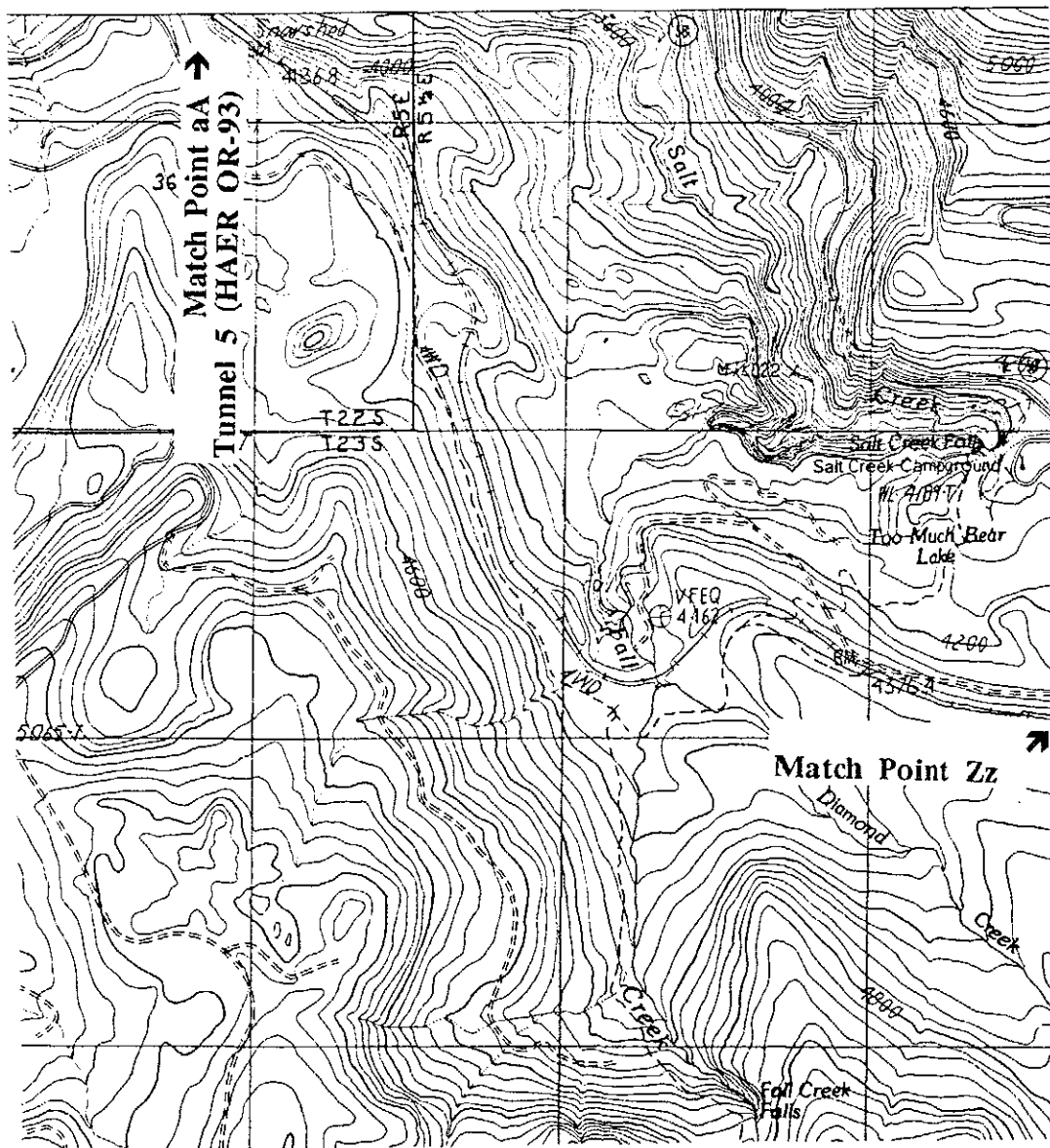
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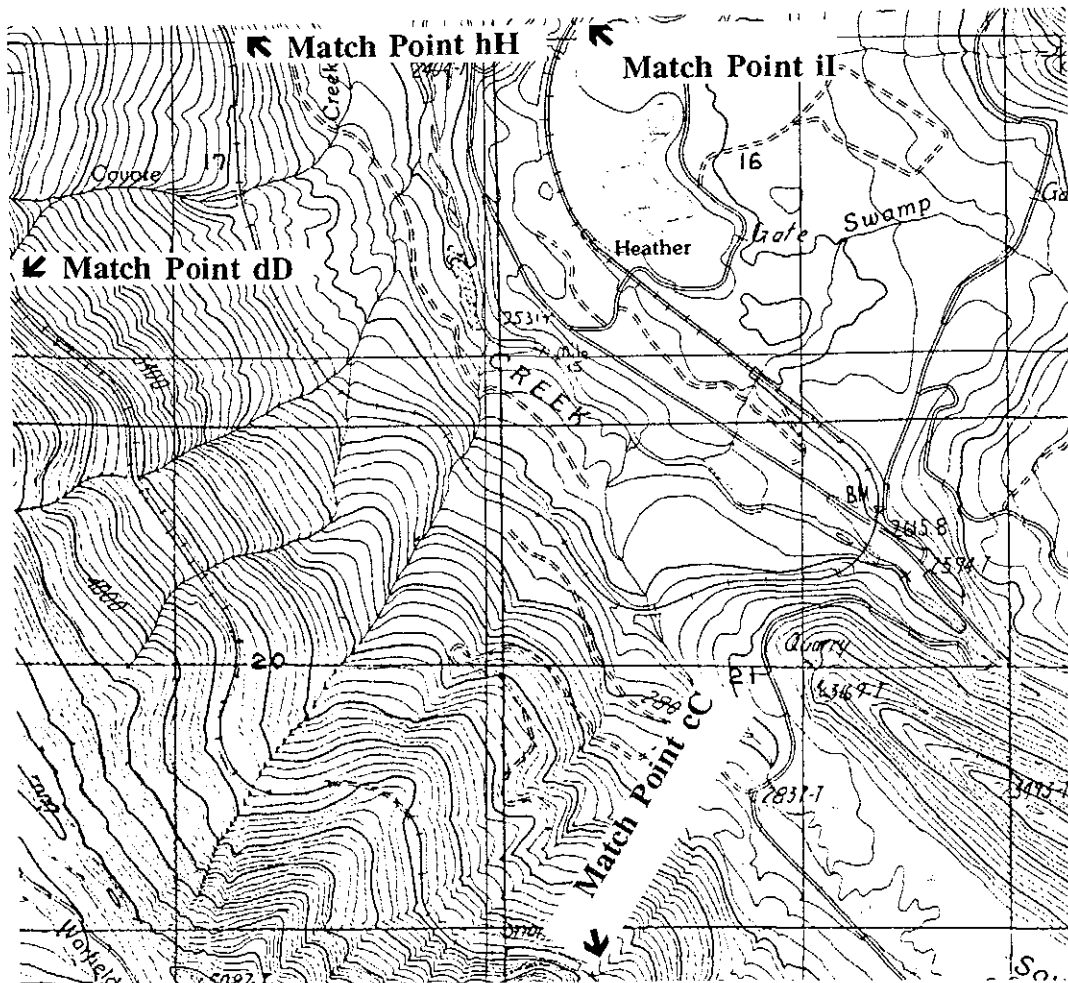
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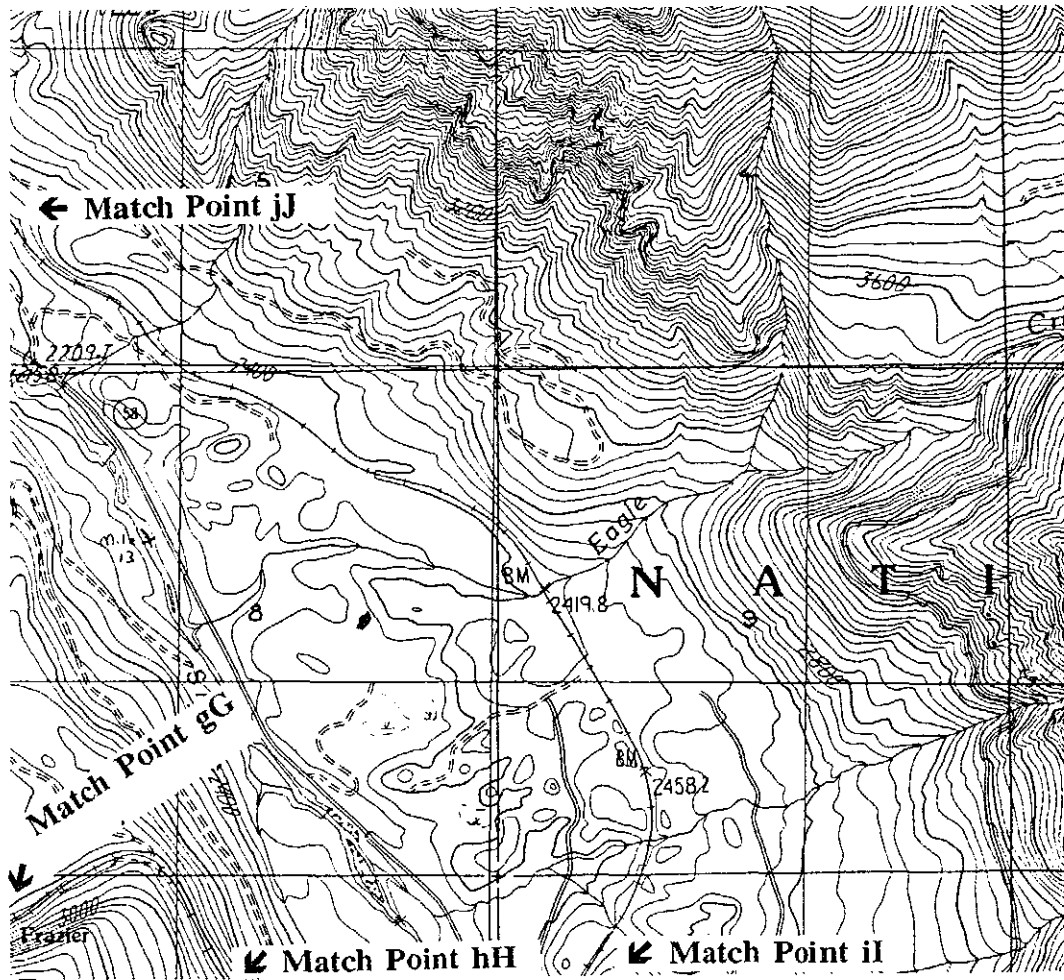
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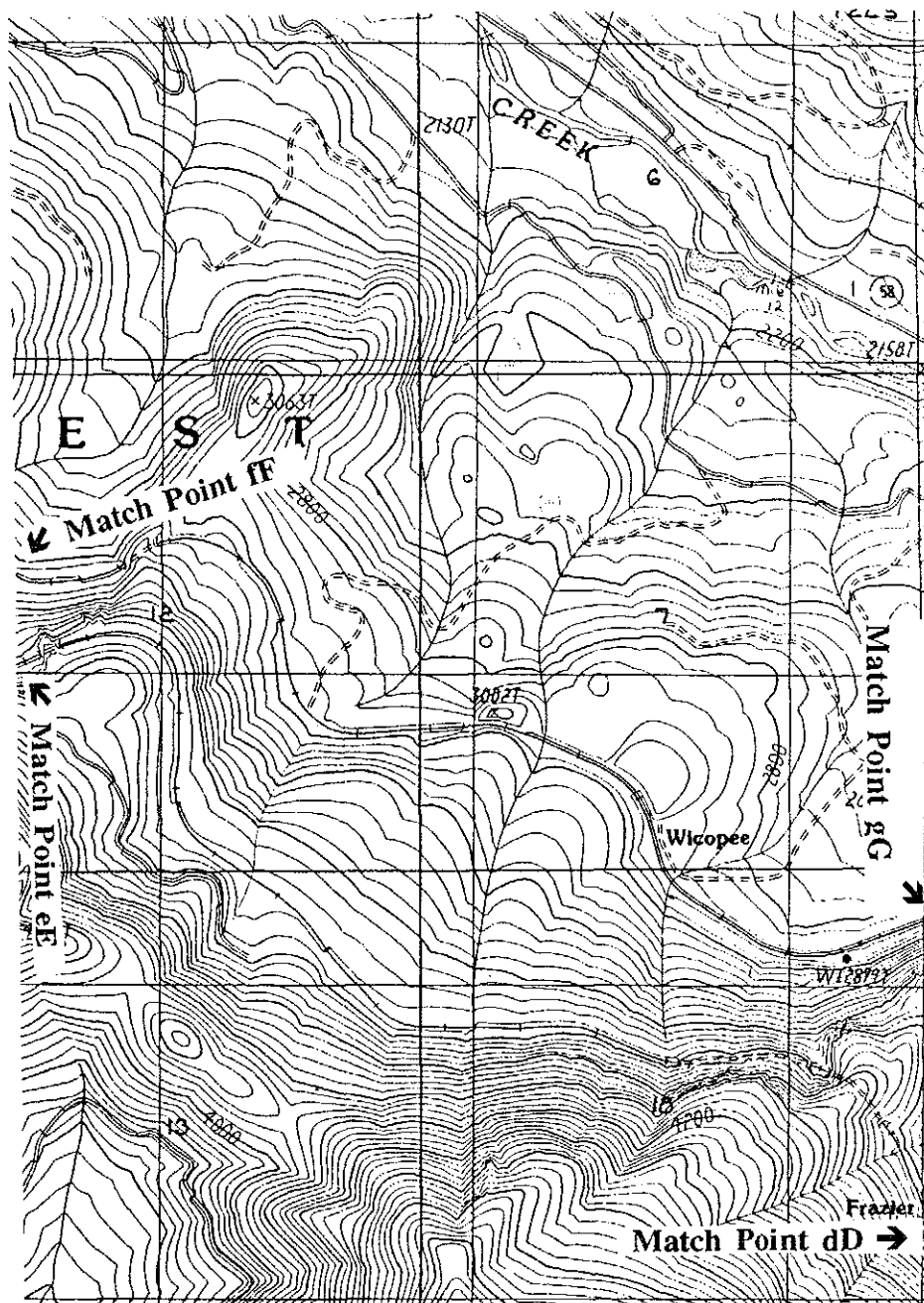
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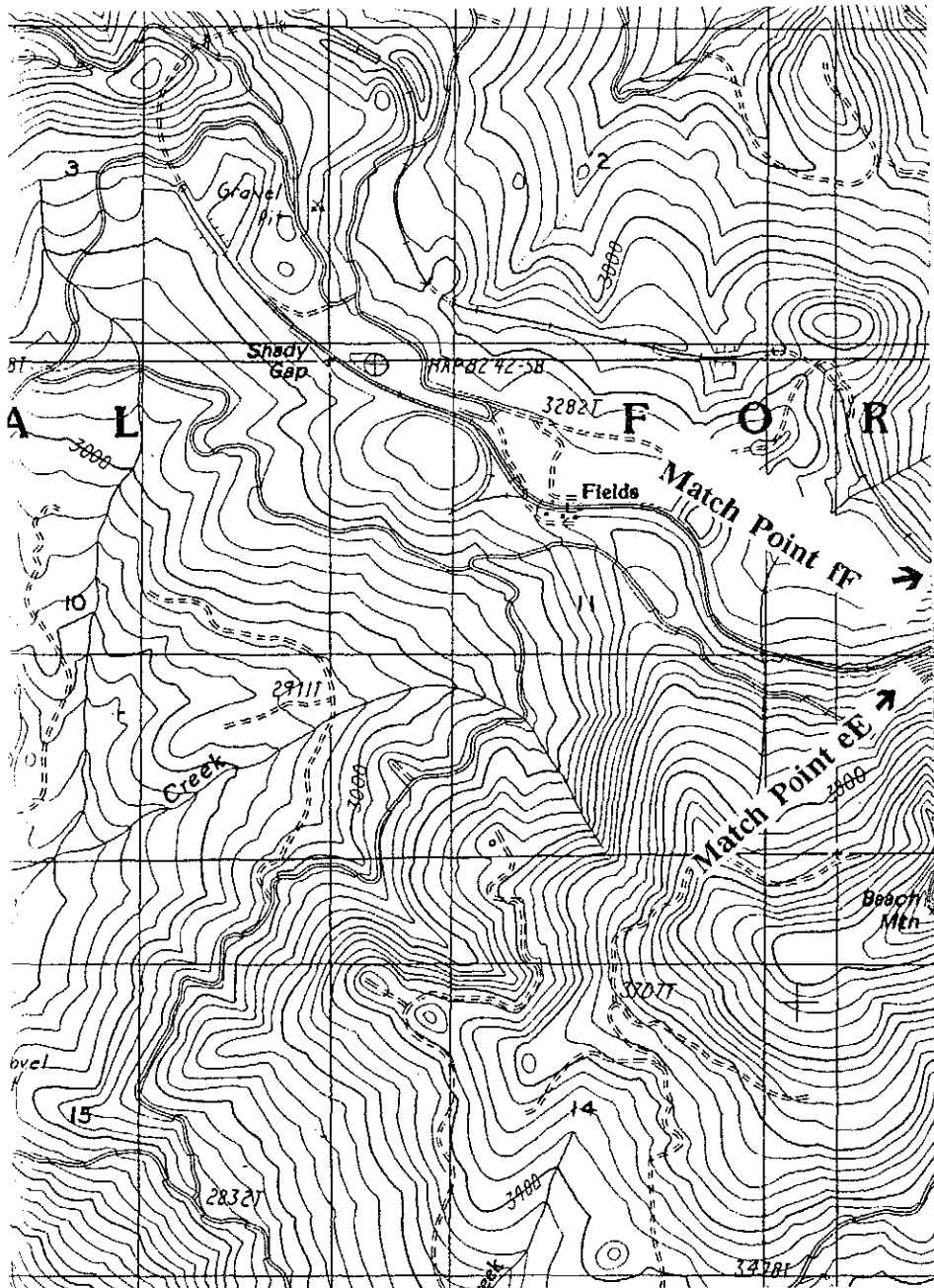
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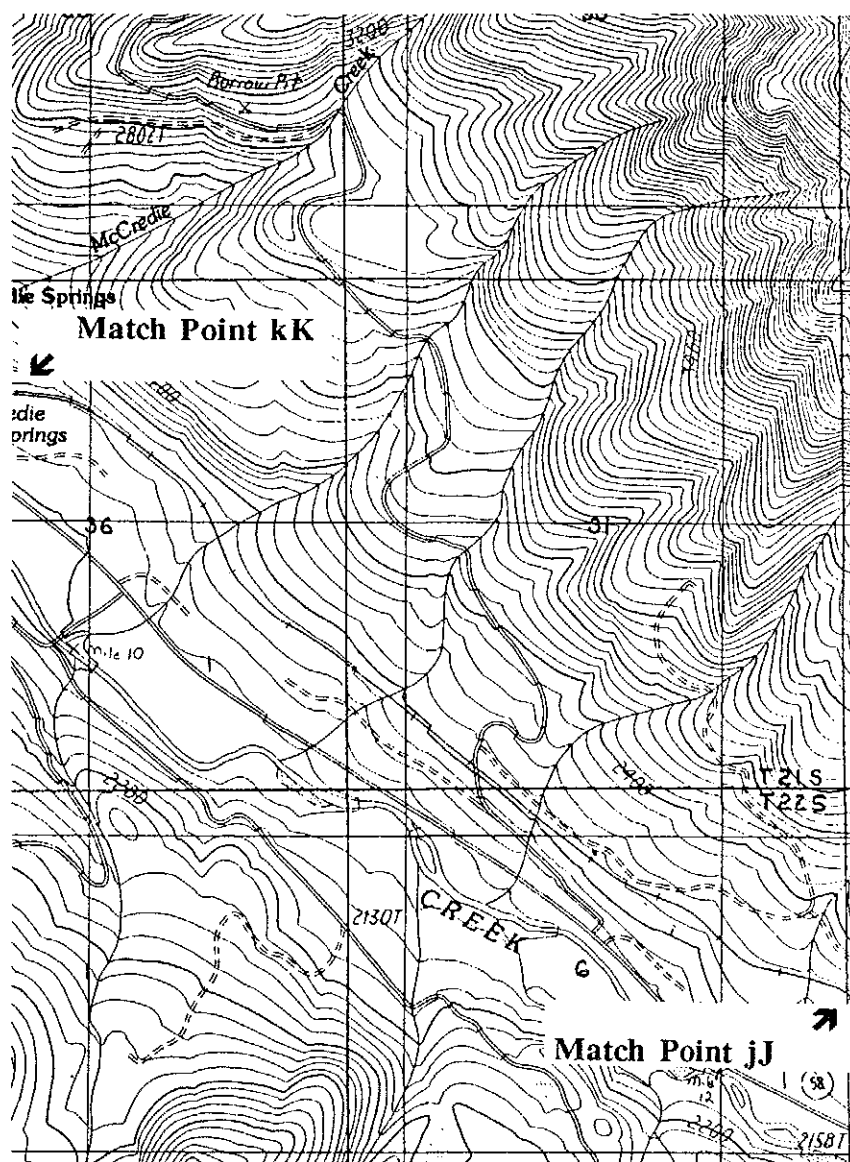
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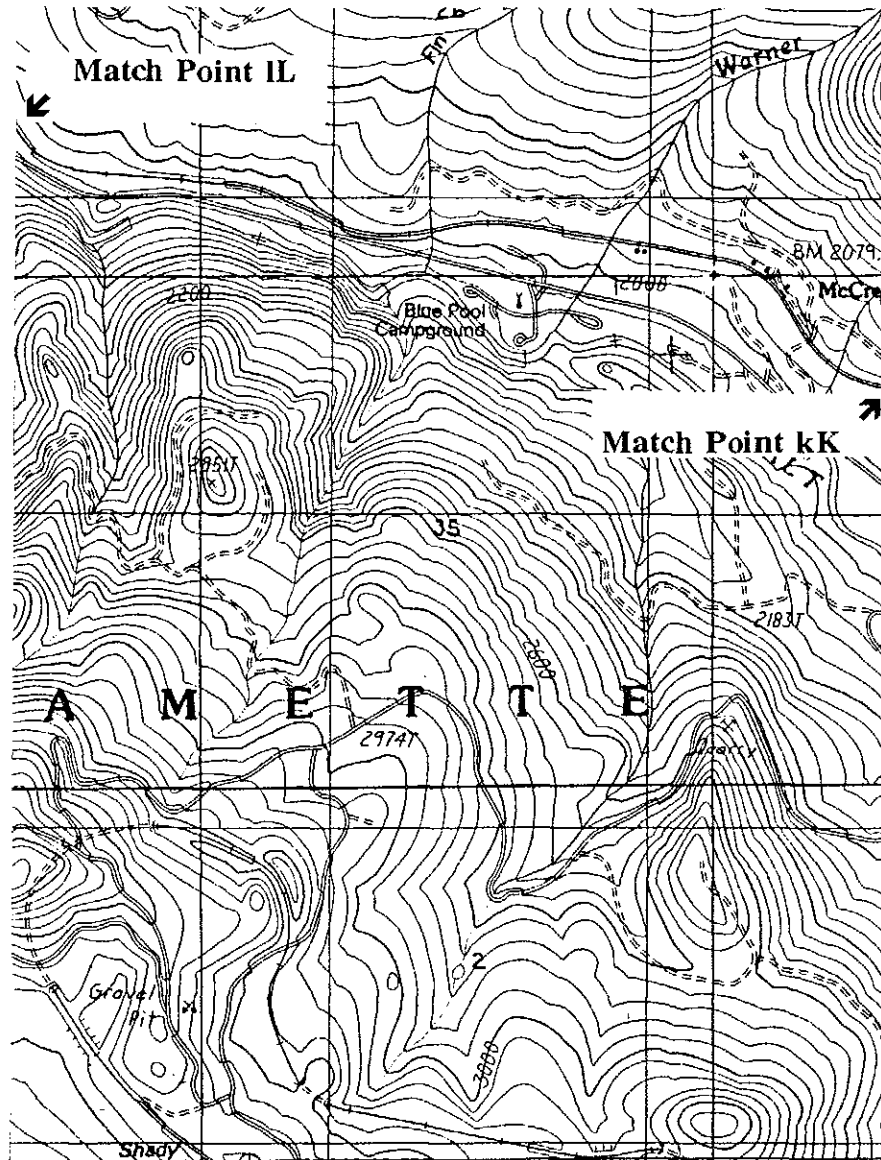
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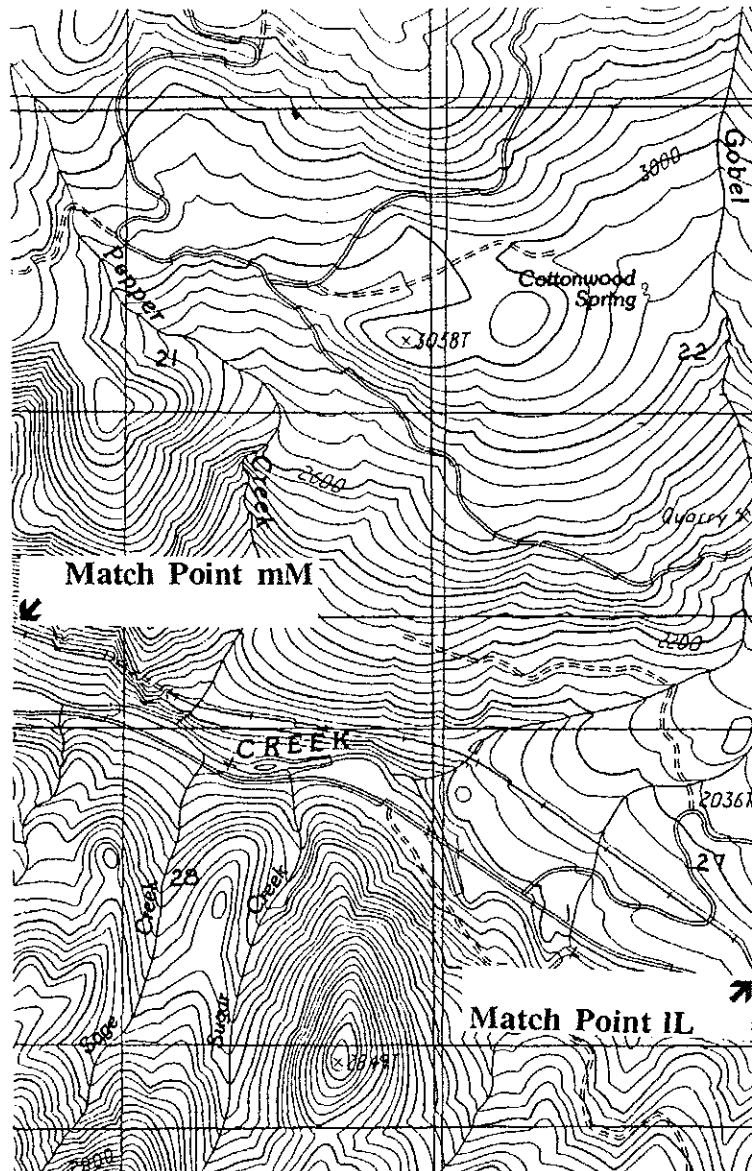
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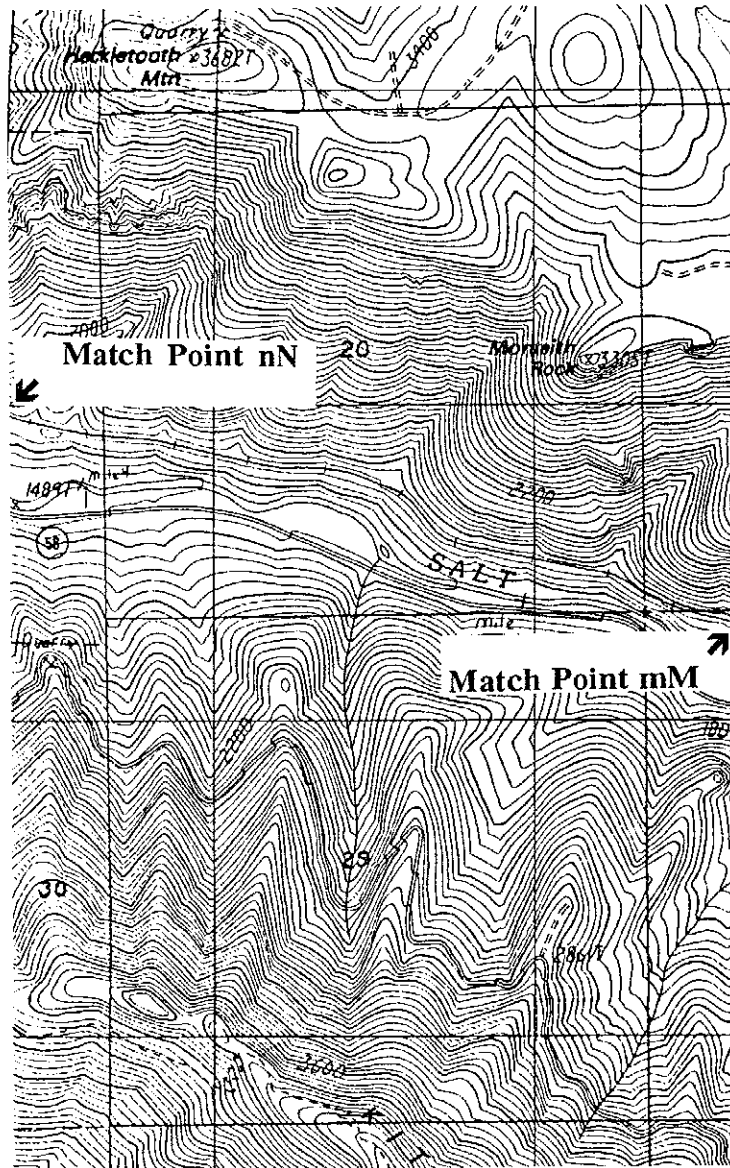
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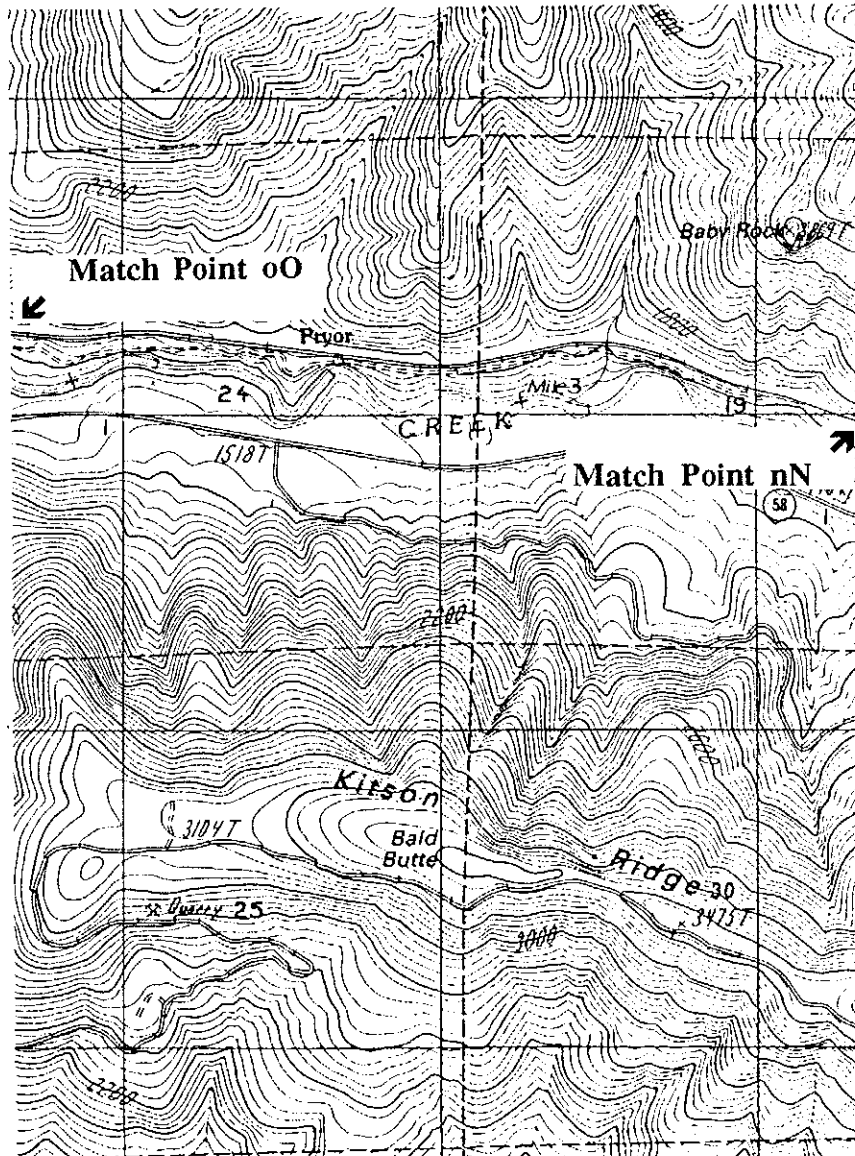
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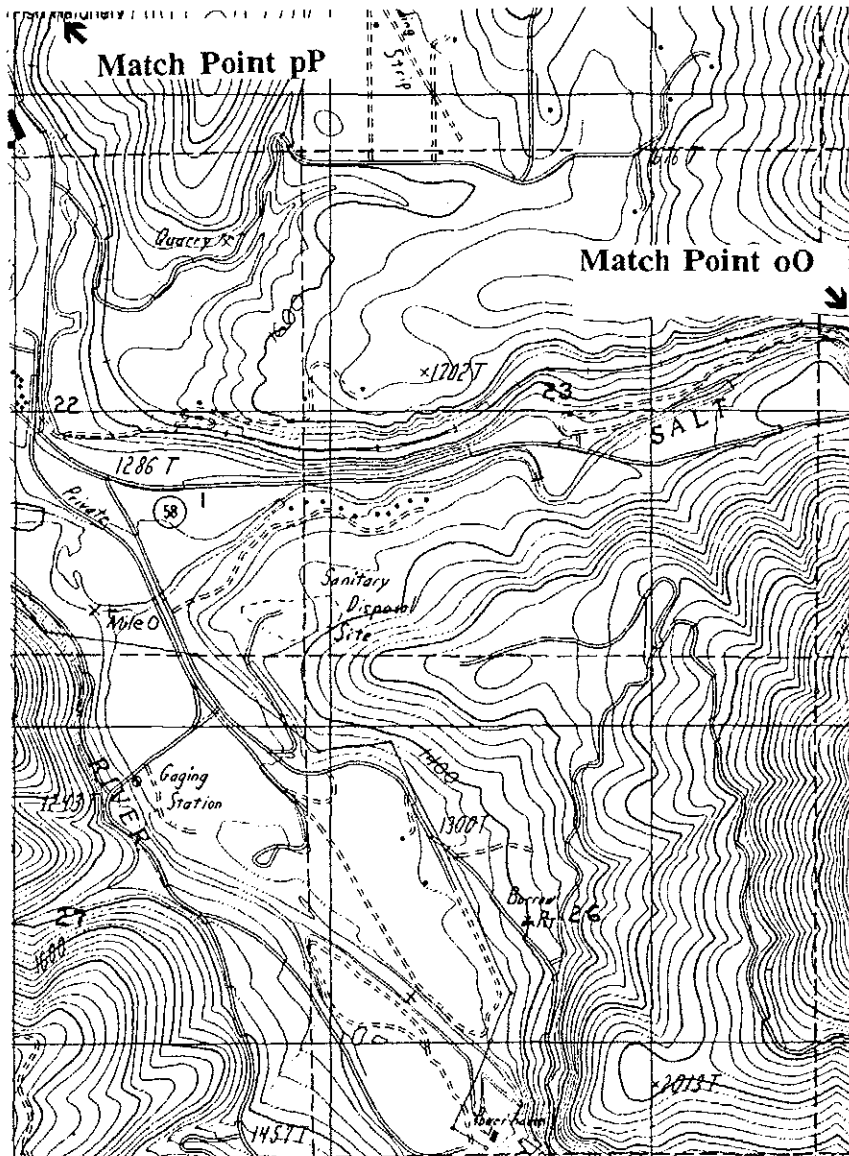
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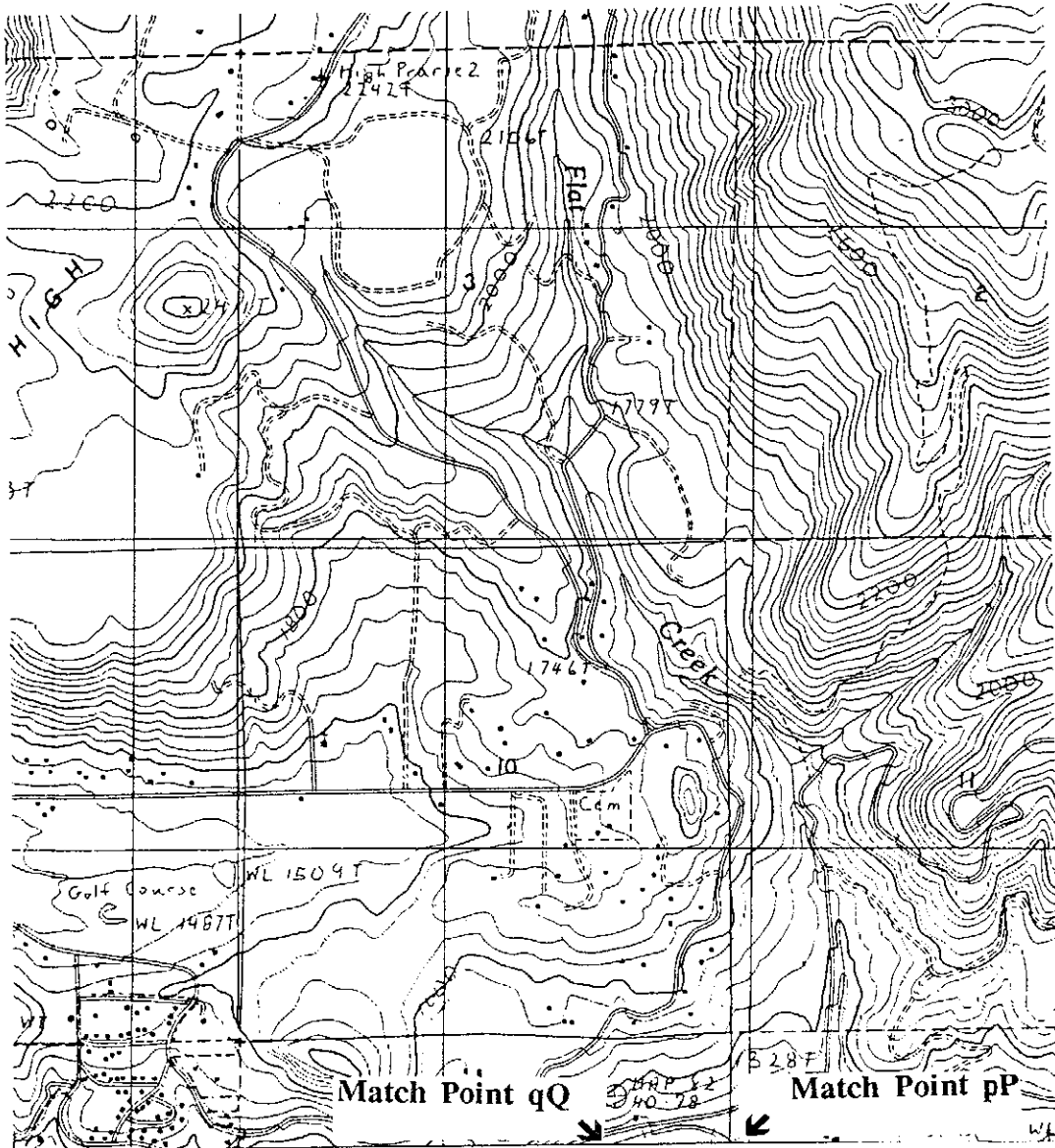
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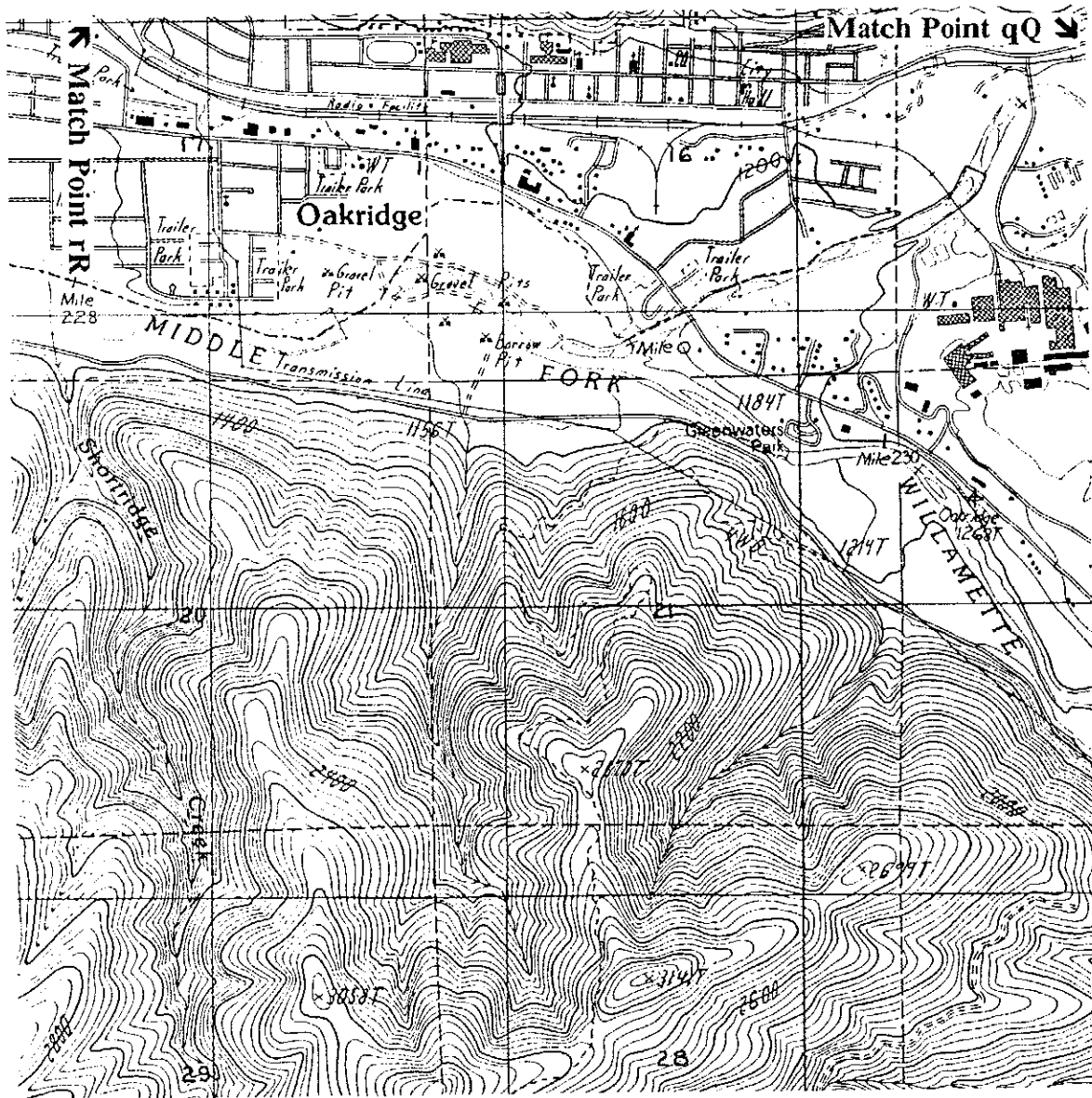
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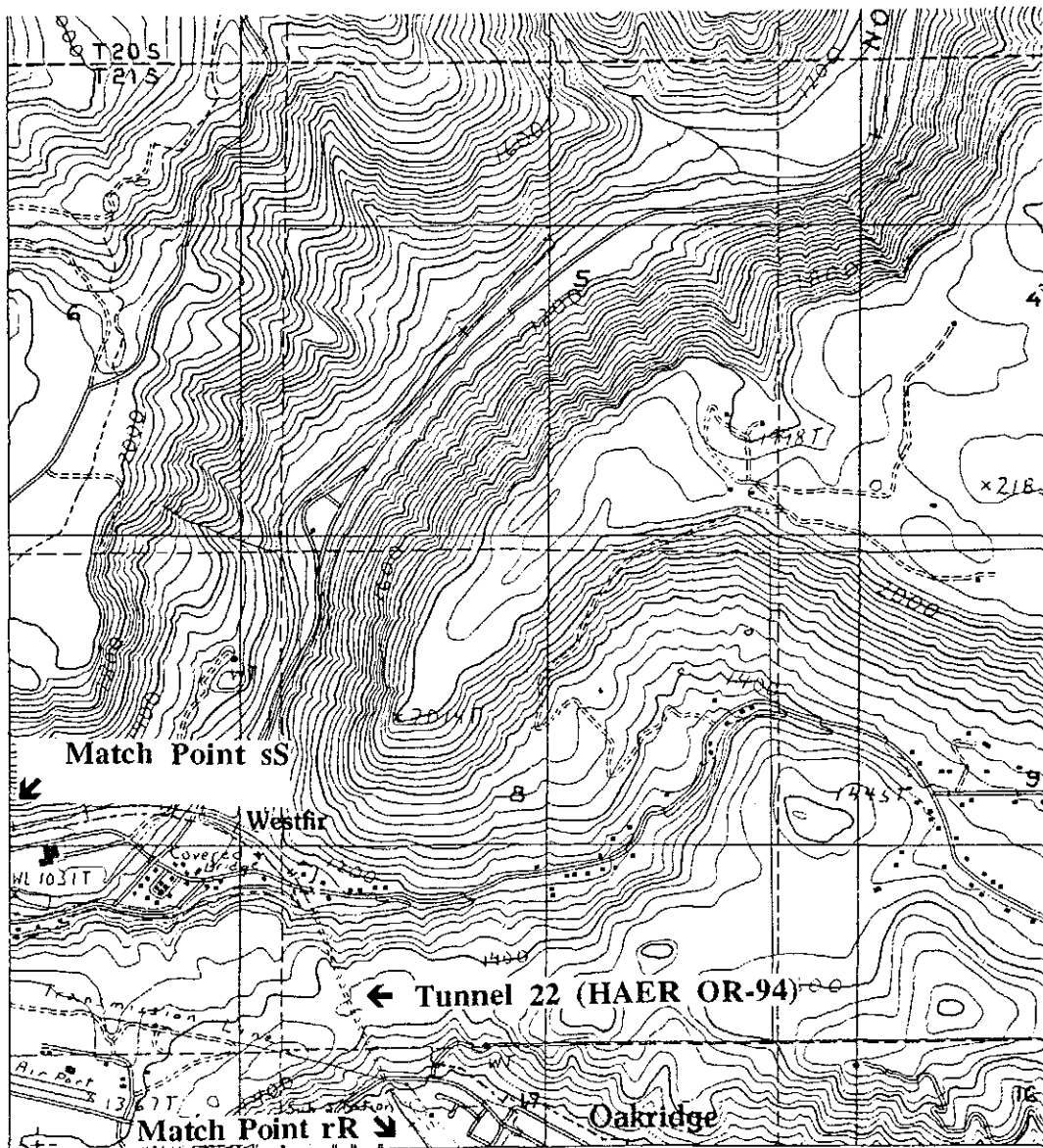
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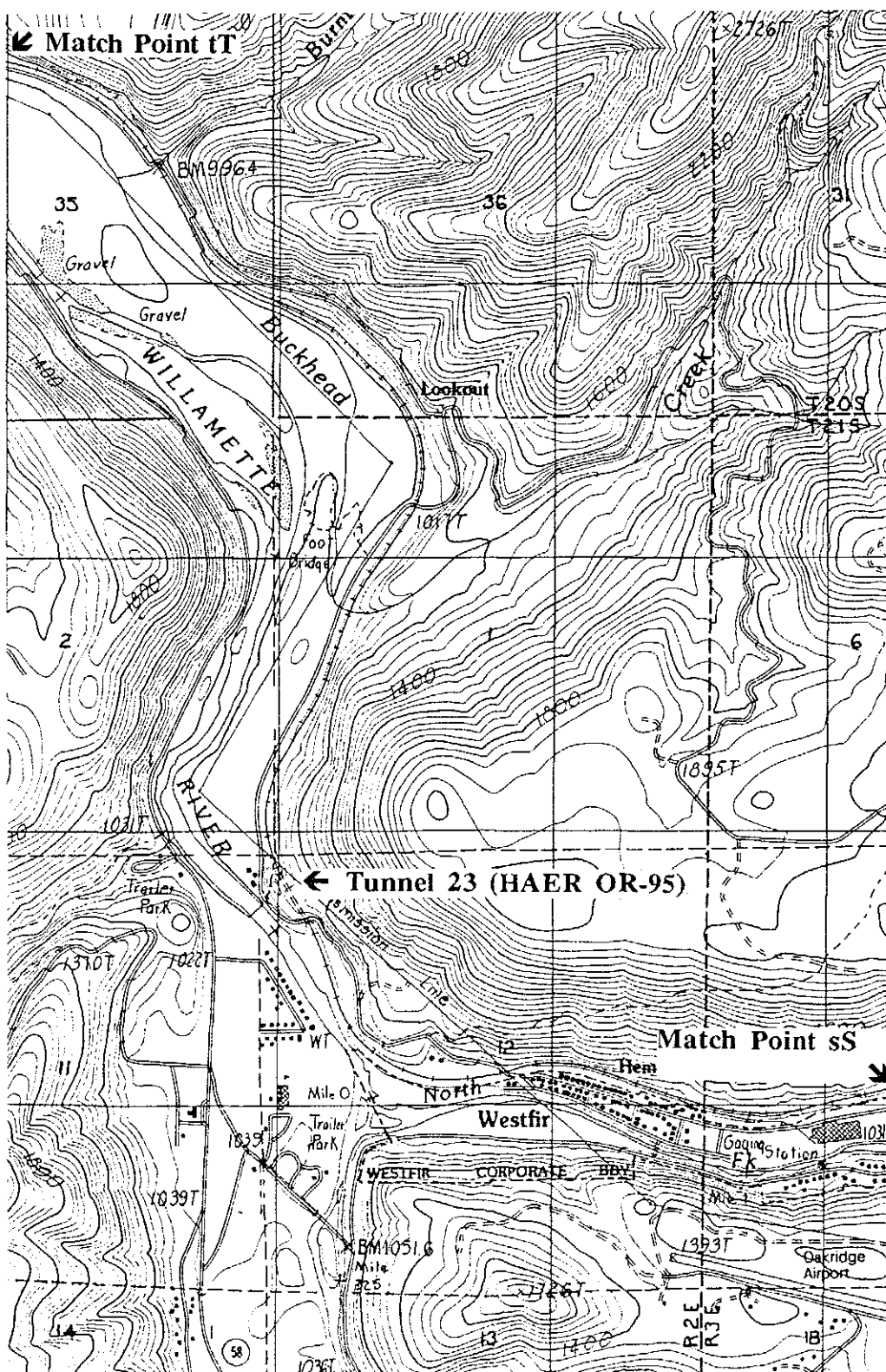
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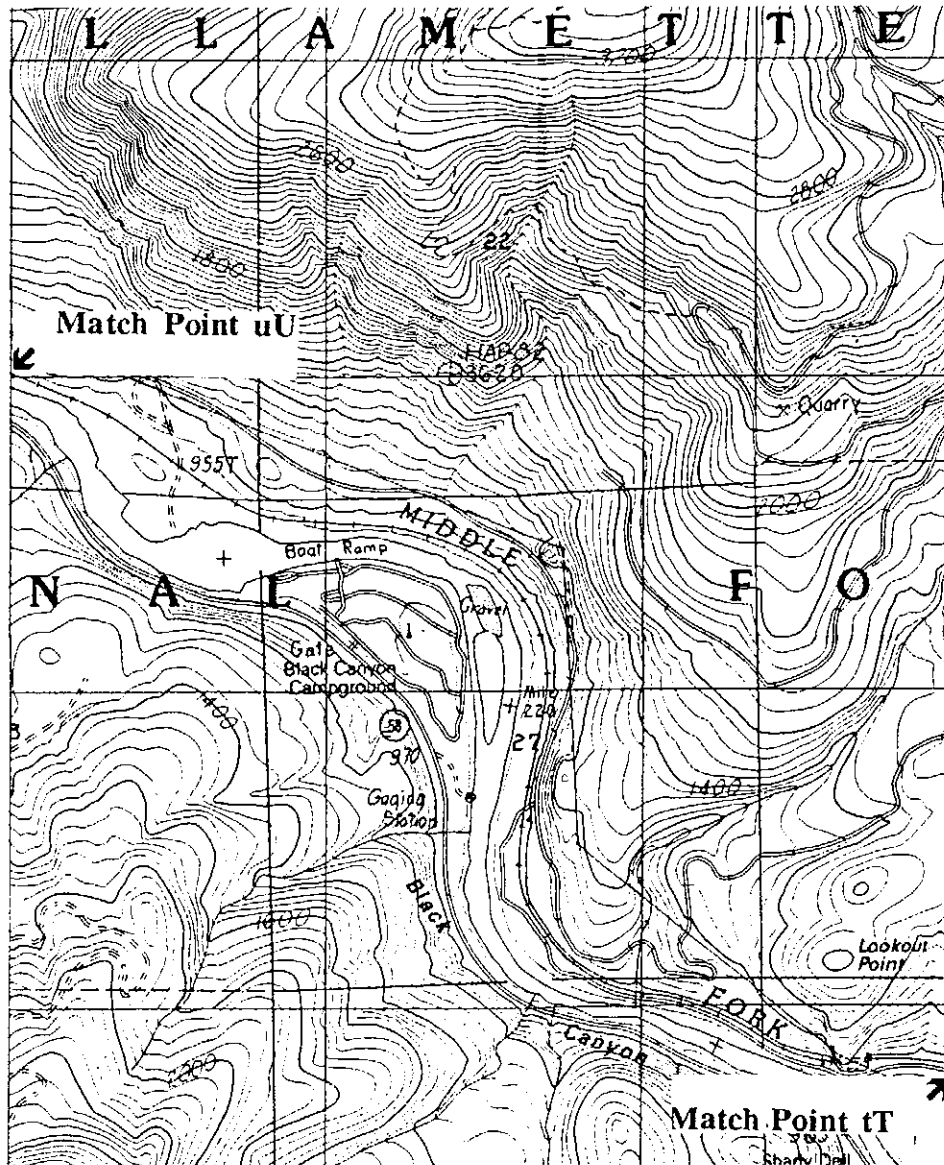
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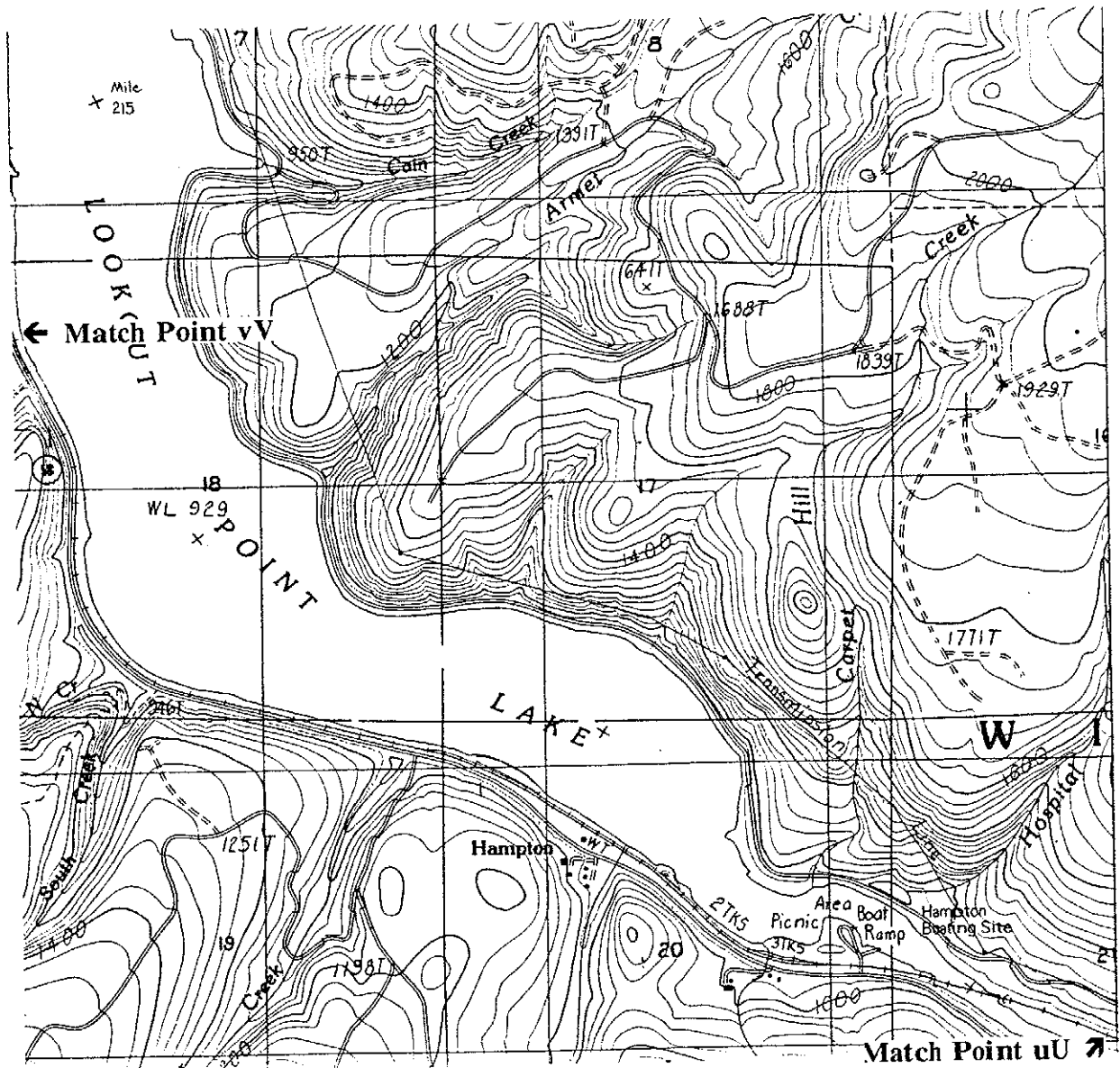
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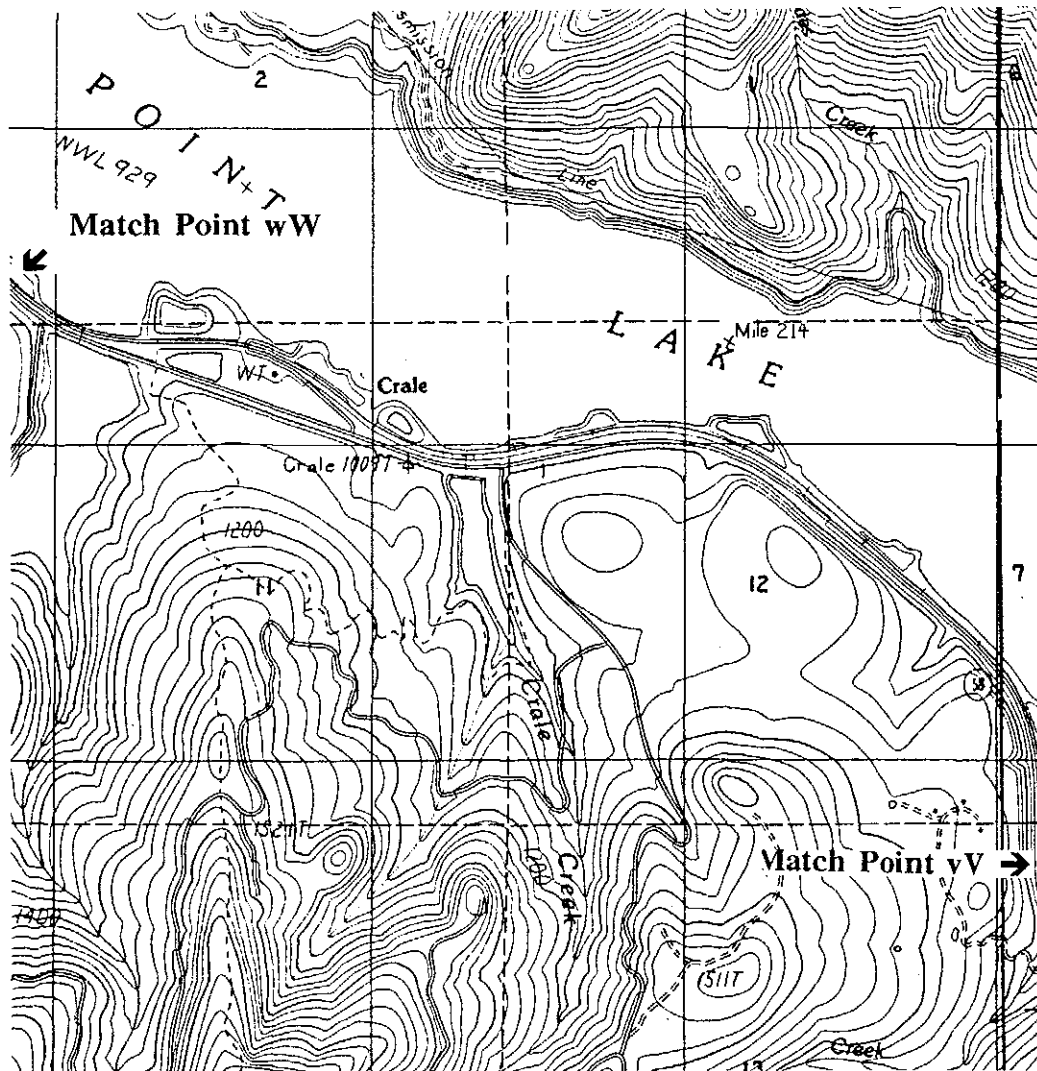
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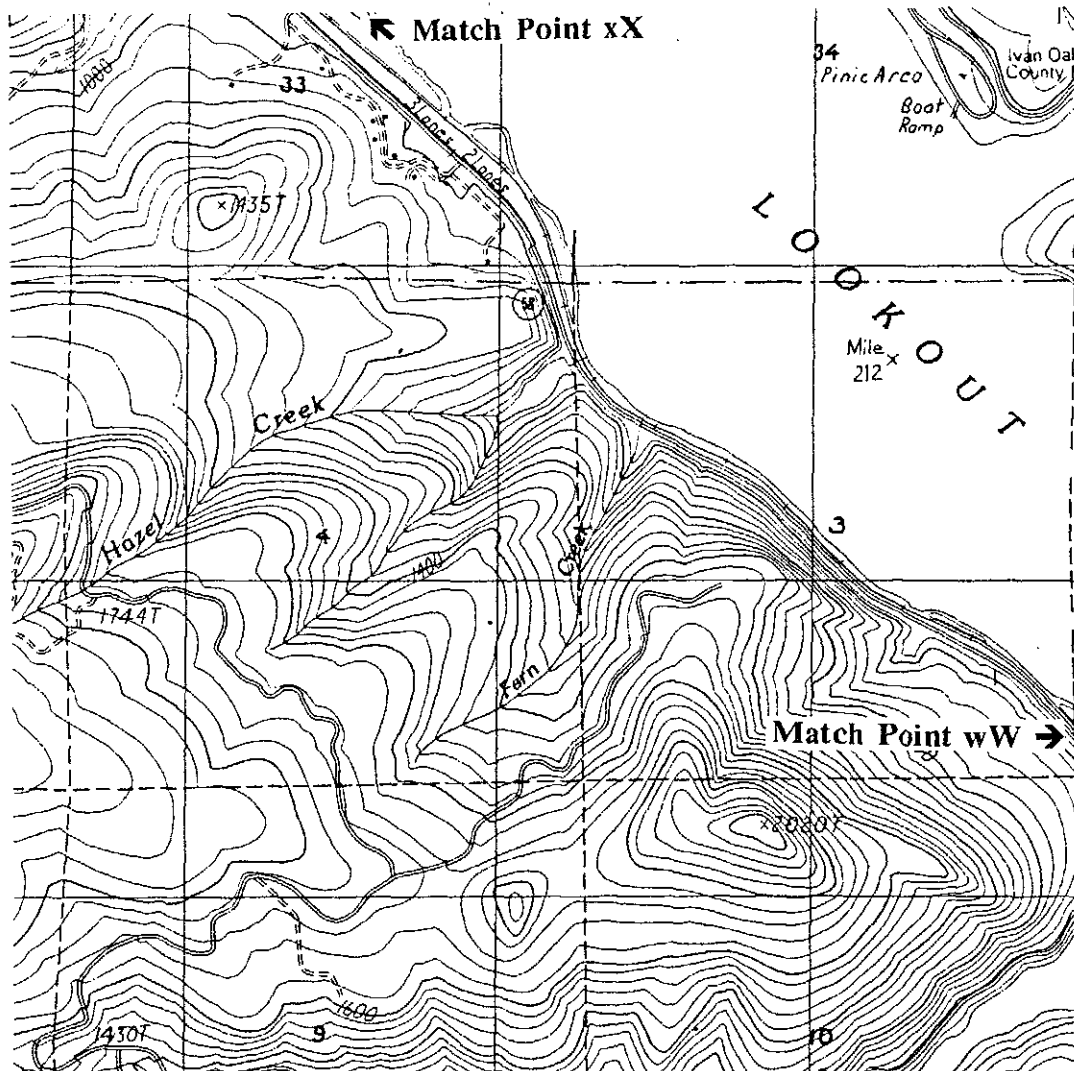
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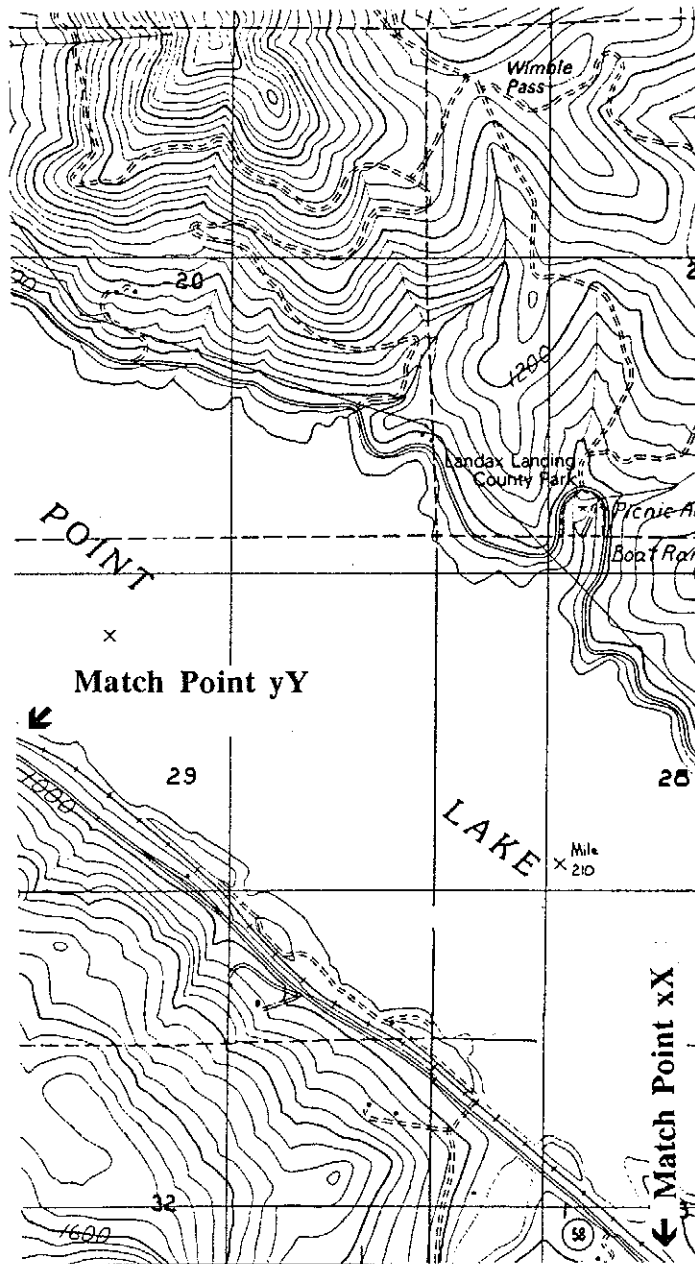
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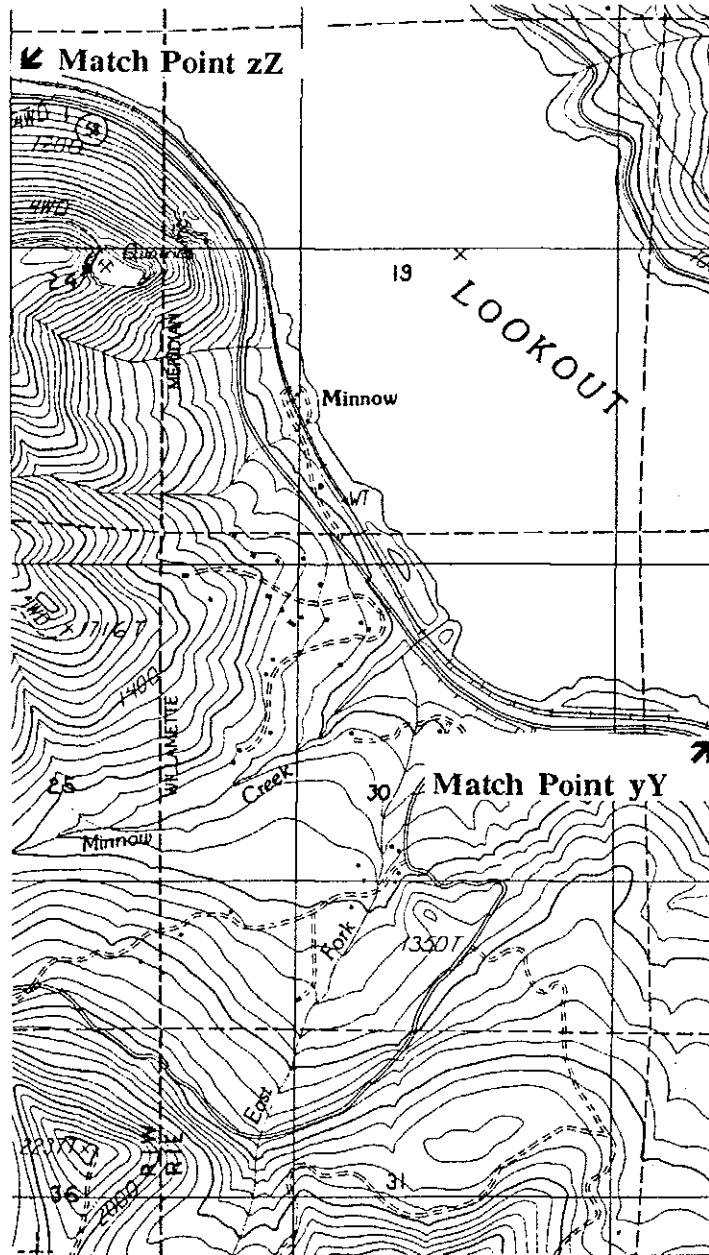
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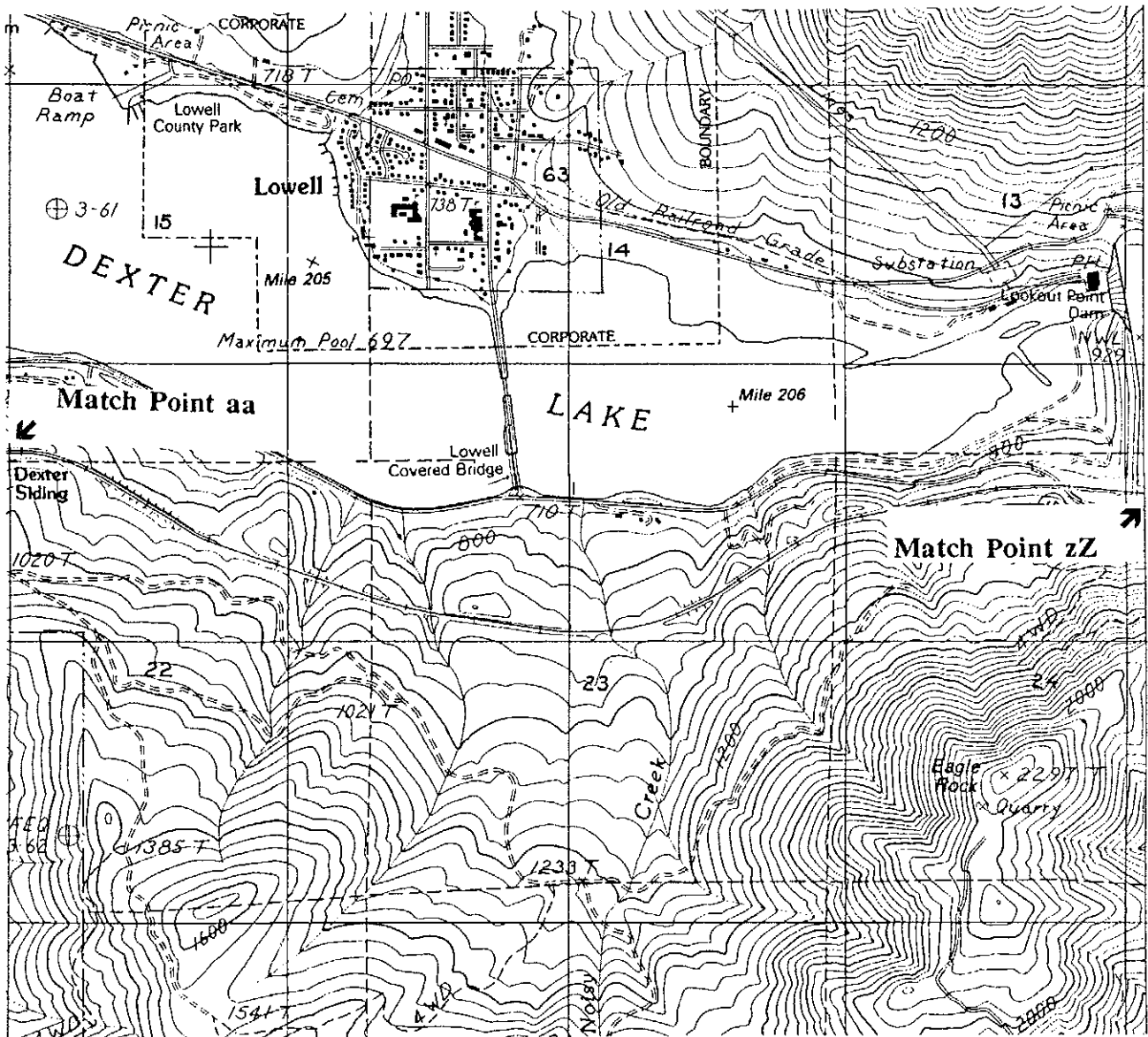
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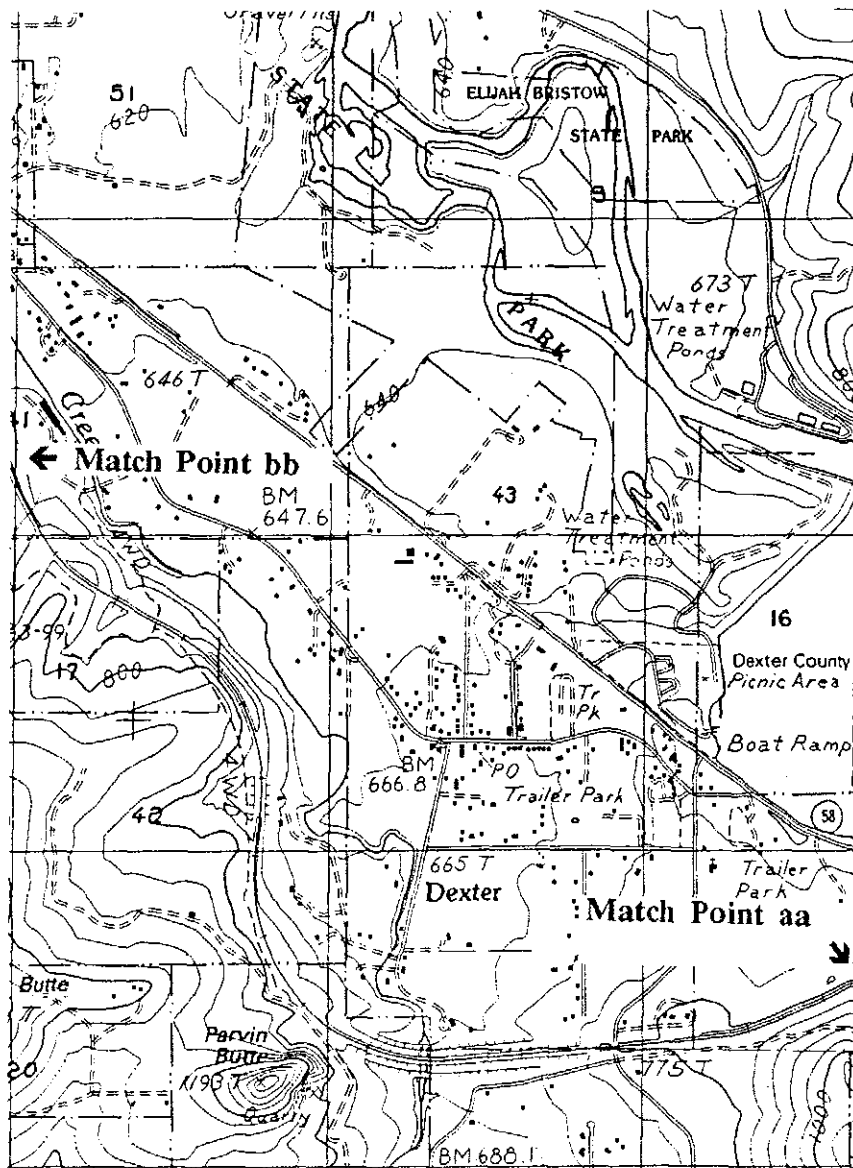
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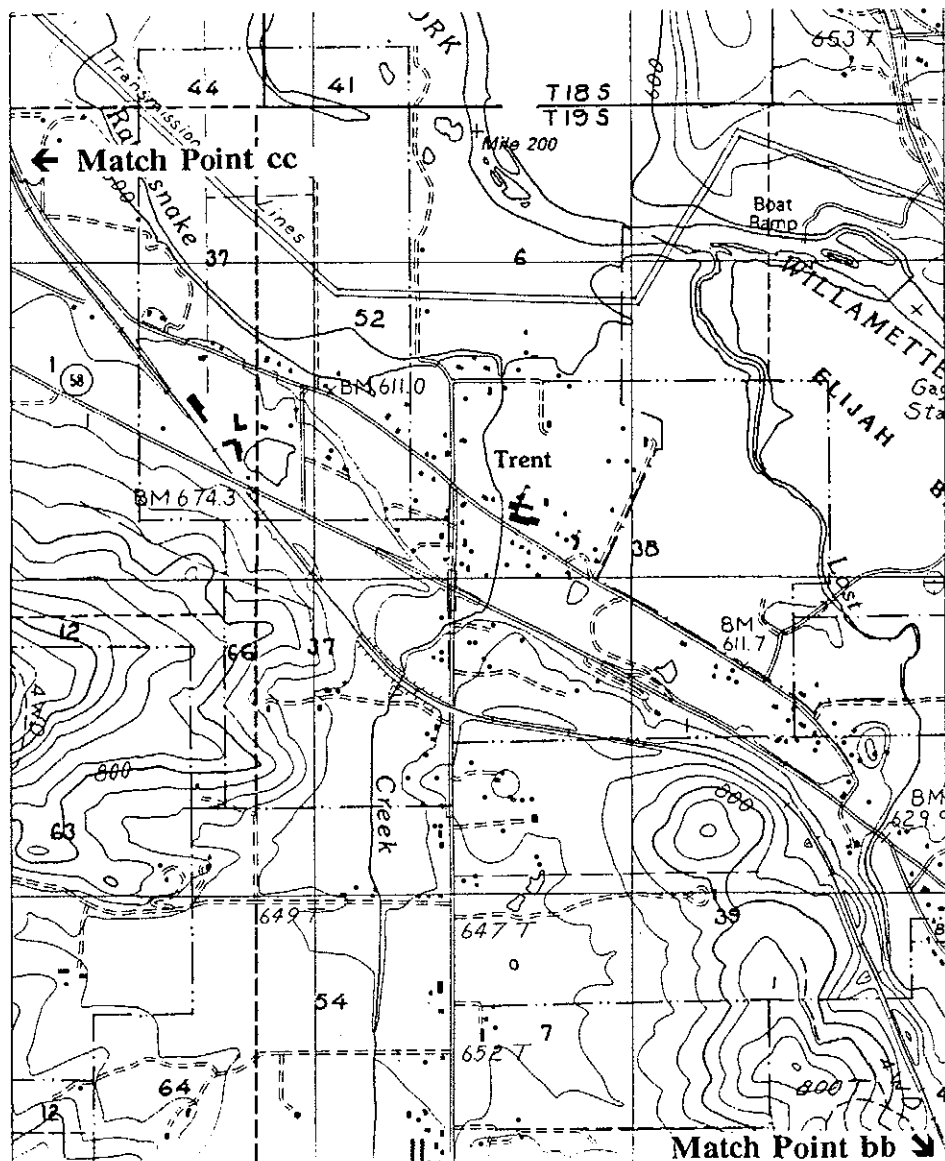
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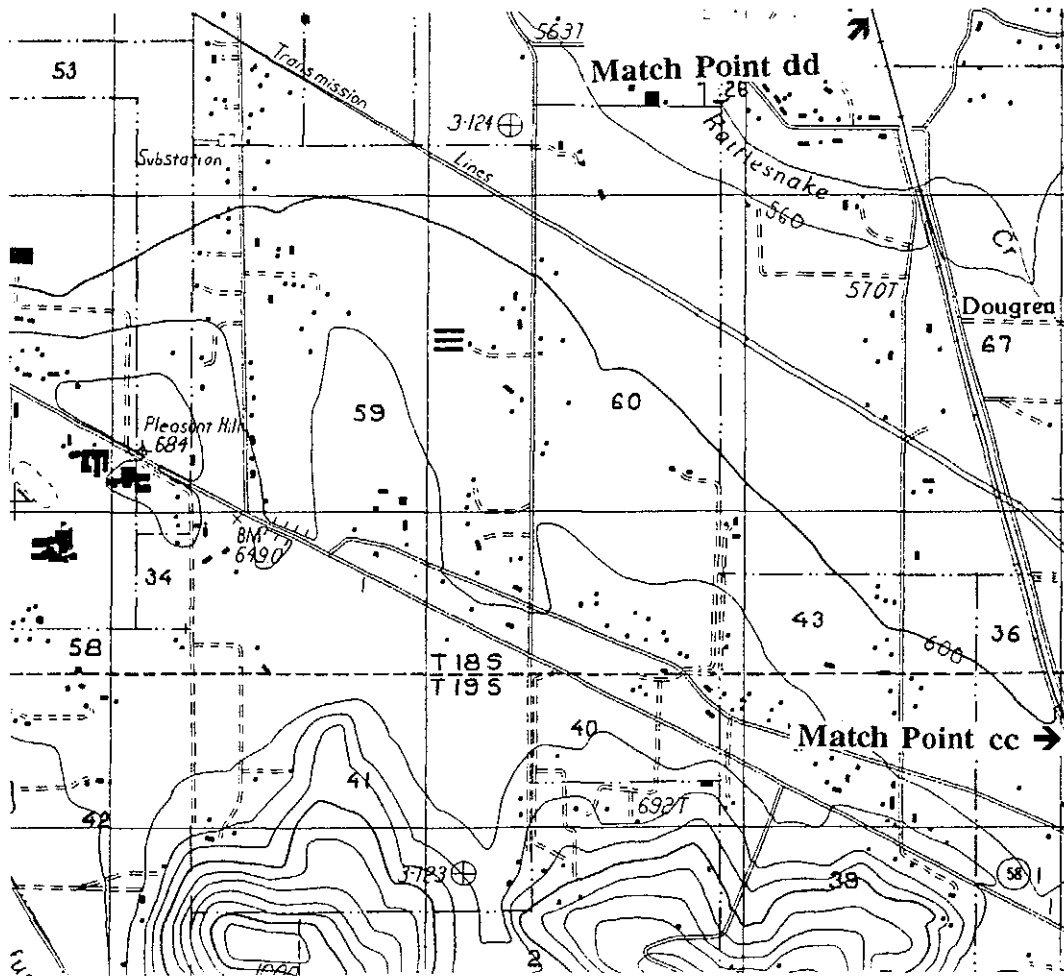
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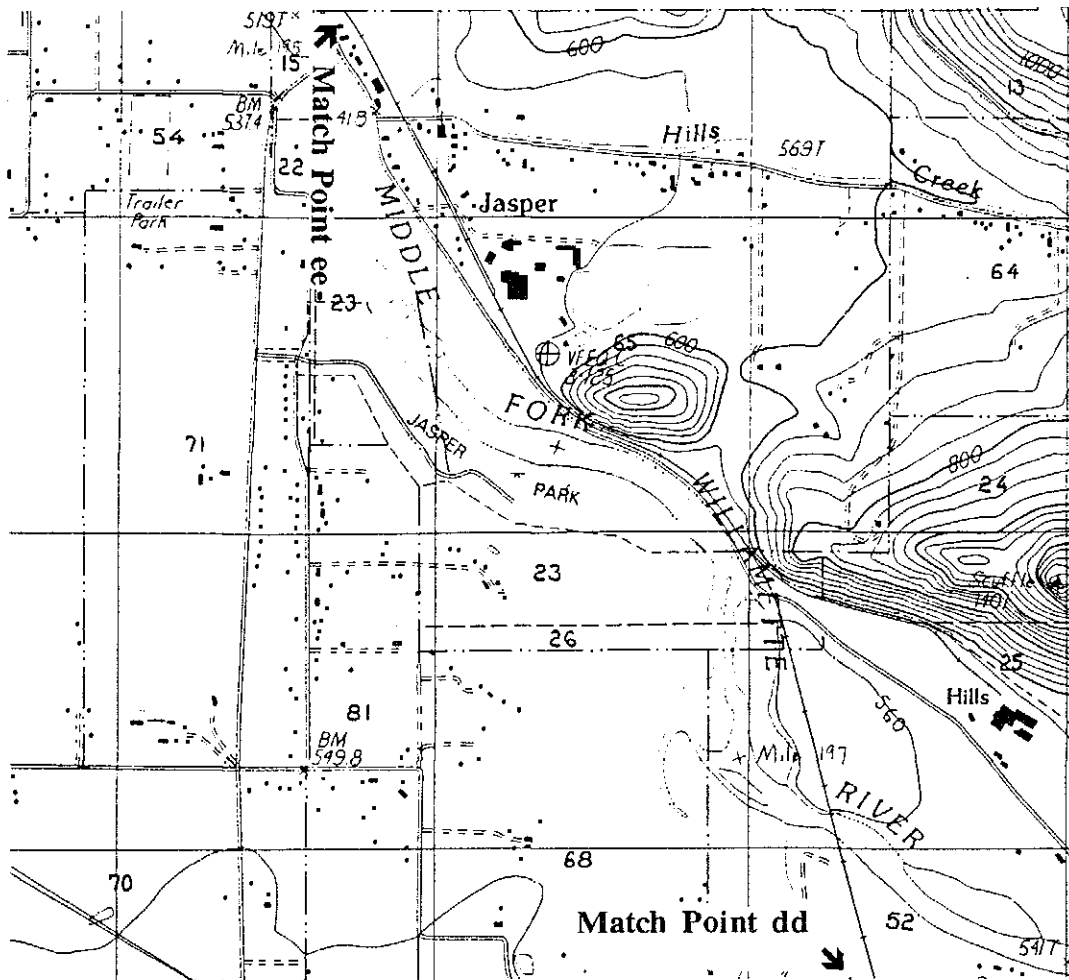
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